

The pursuit over, a people's princess comes home

**Michael Streeter,
John Lichfield
and Mary Braid**

A sombre Prince of Wales brought the body of his ex-wife, Diana, home to Britain last night as the nation struggled to come to terms with the shock and suddenness of her violent death.

In part, the mood was one of simple grief at the loss of a 36-year-old woman in her prime, a "People's Princess" who had become the most famous woman in the world, struck down by the hideous banality of a car crash.

But there was also a growing sense of anger at the manner of her death – killed in a high-speed chase escaping a pack of paparazzi photographers in Paris – prompting claims that sections of the media had "blood on their hands". The tragedy also led to calls for the introduction of tough new privacy laws.

Seven photographers were last night being questioned by police in Paris over their part in the motorcycle pursuit of Diana and her close friend, Dodi Fayed, son of Harrods owner Mohamed al-Fayed, who was also killed in crash.

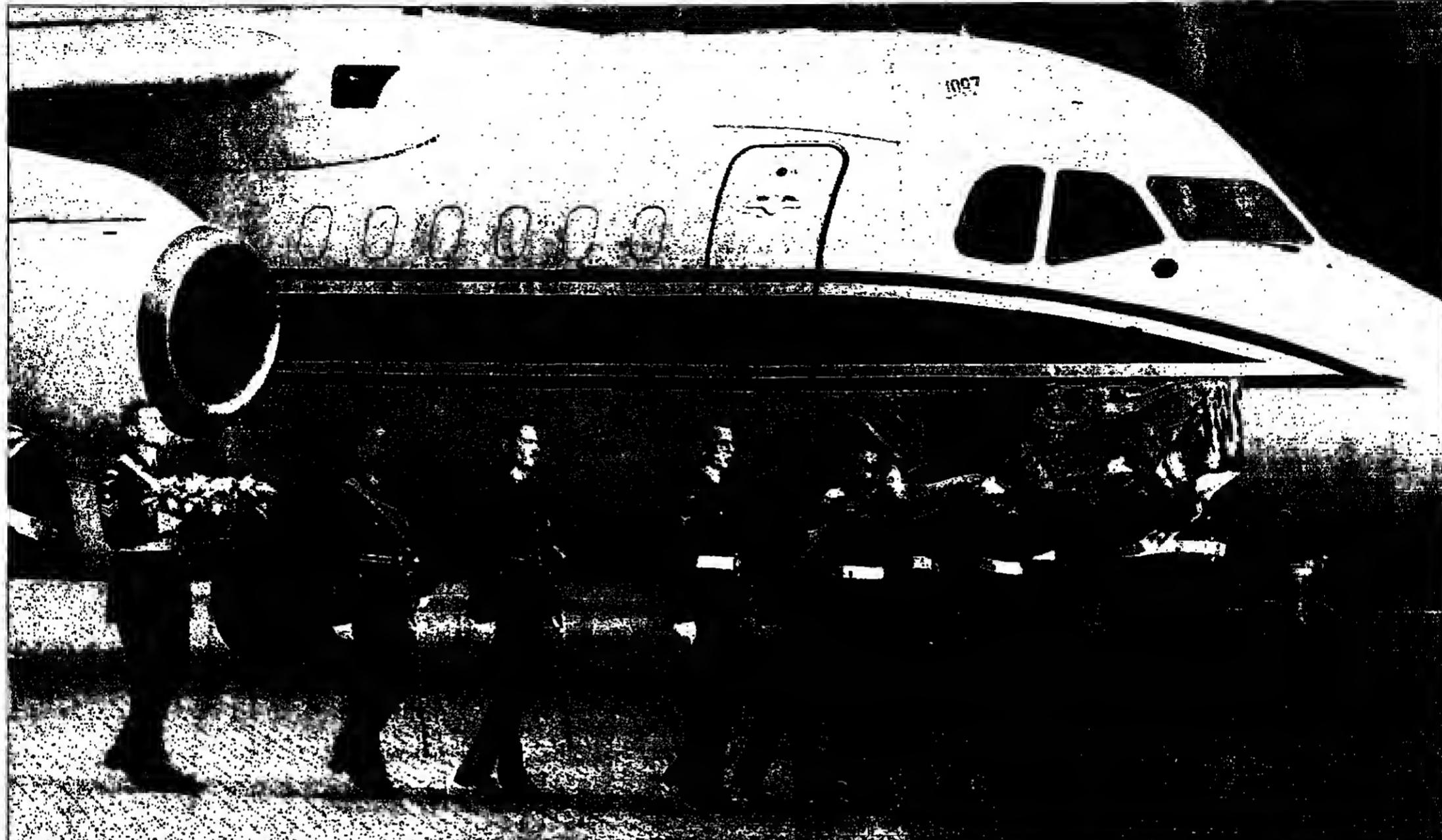
French police sources last night said that charges of dangerous driving and failing to take action to prevent the loss of life could be brought against some of the photographers. The sources said that some of the pack were taking pictures within seconds of the crash. Mr Fayed announced last night that he intended to bring a law suit against the photographers involved and their employers.

The angry mood was summed up most graphically by Diana's brother, Earl Spencer at his home in South Africa, who said every owner or editor who had paid for intrusive photographs of his sister had "blood on their hands". He said: "I always believed the press would kill her in the end. But not even I could believe they would take such a direct hand in her death as seems to be the case."

On his tour of the Far East, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, spoke about the need to take serious questions about "aggressive intrusion into her privacy".

The calls were given further ammunition by reports that one news magazine in the United States has offered photographs of the Paris crash and its aftermath for around \$1m (£588,000). One photographer was attacked by witnesses.

Though a growing number of MPs and former ministers were pushing hard for tougher laws or a fresh inquiry into privacy legislation, senior sources were pointing out that France's tough privacy laws had not prevented



An honour guard carries the coffin of Diana, Princess of Wales, from an aircraft of the Royal Flight which had brought it from Paris to Northolt Airport, near London, accompanied by her sisters, Lady Sarah McCorquodale and Lady Jane Fellowes, and the Prince of Wales, who afterwards returned to Balmoral Castle. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

the tragedy, and that the prospect of fresh British legislation was remote.

Outside Diana's London home, Kensington Palace, photographers were forced to seek police protection because of a hostile reaction from onlookers who had come to mourn her.

The scenes contrasted with the quiet dignity of Prince Charles and Diana's two sisters, Lady Jane Fellowes and Lady Sarah McCorquodale, as they flew with the body into RAF Northolt, near London, last night.

Charles, who much earlier in the day had woken his sons, William and Harry, at Balmoral to break the news to his grieving sons, who earlier had appeared composed when they went with the Queen, their father and other members of the Royal Family at the Salpêtrière Hospital, where surgeons had fought for two hours to save Diana's life.

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Diana 1961-1997
The paparazzi chase that ended in death 2,3
Royal reaction 4
Blood on their hands? 5
The Fayed family 6
The princess's charities 7
Leading article 8
Polly Toynbee: 'The palace does not need a St Diana' 9
The life and style 10,11
Obituary 12

He was met on his return by Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, before returning to Scotland to be with his grieving sons, who earlier had appeared composed when they went with the Queen, their father and other members of the Royal Family at the Salpêtrière Hospital, where surgeons had fought for two hours to save Diana's life.

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Mr Blair said in a televised

statement: "I am utterly devastated. We are today a nation in a state of shock, in mourning, in grief that is so deeply painful for us."

Last night the Queen was being consulted together with other members of the Royal Family, Diana's family and Downing Street over when the funeral will take place.

More significantly the campaign over the referendum on

They will also decide on whether the Princess will be given a full state funeral and over the length of any official period of mourning. However, the arrival of the coffin, draped in the Royal Standard, bore some of the hallmarks of a state occasion. The body was taken to an unnamed mortuary.

As tributes poured in from world leaders and celebrities for the self-styled Queen of Hearts, including from President Clinton and Mother Teresa, much of life in Britain came to a standstill.

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Scottish parliament – which takes place next week – was suspended, though sources insisted the poll would still go ahead.

The driver of the Mercedes in which the couple were being driven was also killed, but a British bodyguard, named last night as Trevor Rees-Jones, employed by both Dodi and his father, survived.

The crash happened at just after midnight in a tunnel near the Place d'Alma. The car was travelling at "high speed", apparently trying to shake off the paparazzi. The black Mercedes hit pillars dividing the carriageways inside the tunnel and then rebounded against the wall. Police sources said that the horrific damage to the vehicle suggested that it must have been travelling at least 100kph (60mph) in a 50kph speed limit area.

CONTENTS

THE BROADSHEET	
Arts	15
Briefings	20
Business & City	18,19
Comment	8,9
Features	16
Foreign News	14
Home News	13
Leader and Letters	8
People	20
MEDIA+ TABLOID	
Appointments	8,15
Concise Crossword	26
Listings	24,25
Media +	2,11
Radio & TV	19,20
Weather	26

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Diana 1961-1997

the tragedy

Game of hide and seek with the

Car struck pillar on deadly bend in tunnel

John Lichfield

Paris

Diana, Princess of Wales, and Dodi Fayed had been playing hide and seek with the paparazzi since late afternoon. Minutes after they arrived by private jet at Le Bourget airport, word reached the picture agencies that the most sought-after couple in the paparazzi world had arrived in one of main paparazzi capitals. The game was on. But there was nothing to suggest that this day's game - just one of a thousand identical days for the Princess and her pursuers - would end so violently and so tragically.

5pm: Just after 5pm, Paris time, news breaks that the Princess and Mr Fayed have landed at Le Bourget. They had last been seen on the Fayed yacht, *Jonikal* at Portofino in the Italian Riviera. But the yacht had its own helicopter. It is assumed that it ferried them to the aircraft somewhere in northern Italy or southern France and they flew to Paris.

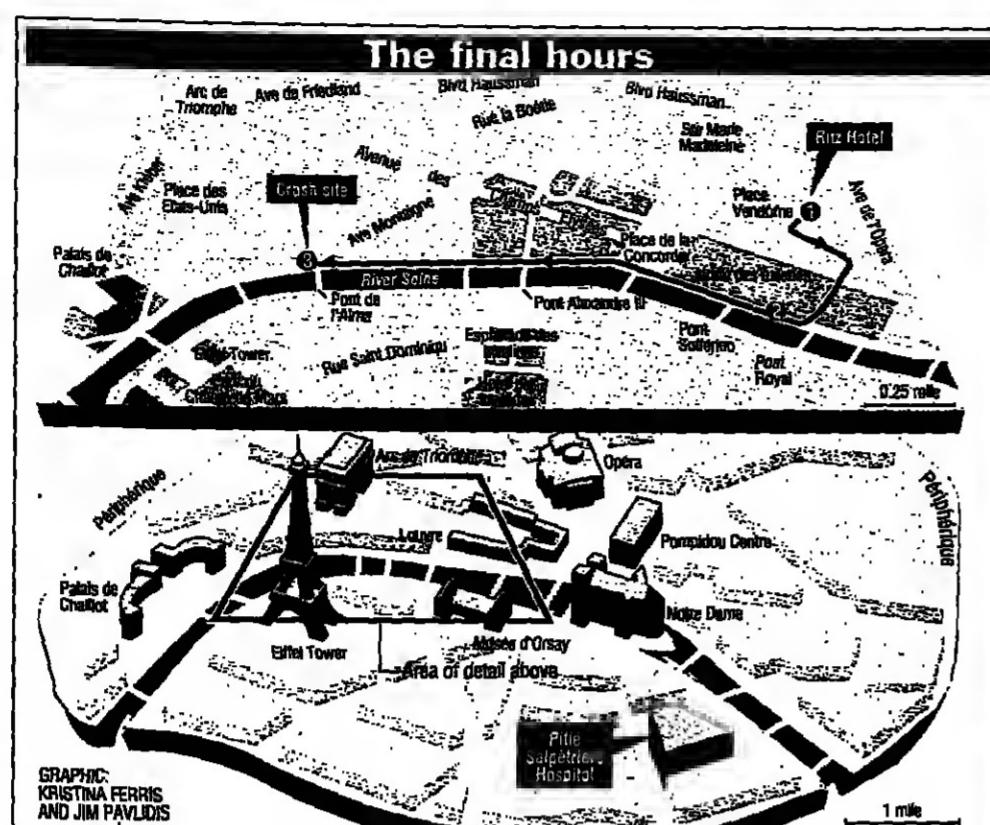
5.30pm: A score of photographers gather outside the Ritz Hotel in the Place Vendôme in the centre of Paris. The hotel is owned by Dodi's father, Mohamed al-Fayed. It would be one of the likeliest places for a sighting of the couple. The photographers are not disappointed. Accounts differ about whether they were seen entering the hotel. But soon after 5pm the Princess was seen coming out.

5pm to 8.30pm: Photographers in cars and on horseback chase the Princess's car to the Champs Elysées, where she goes shopping. She returns to the Ritz.

8.30pm to midnight: The couple dine at the Ritz. A number of decoy limousines speed away from the hotel, in an attempt to draw off the pack.

Just after midnight: The couple drive to the Ritz. A number of decoy limousines speed away from the hotel, in an attempt to draw off the pack.

Witnesses reported the car travelling at "enormous speed".



Saturday afternoon: Diana and Dodi Fayed arrive in Paris after spending a week's holiday together in St Tropez on the French Riviera.

Saturday evening: the Princess and Dodi Fayed spend the evening dining at the Ritz Hotel, owned by the Fayed family. Around midnight (11pm BST): the couple leave the hotel by boat to snap them as they leave. Diana and Dodi, accompanied by a Fayed bodyguard and driver, begin their drive west on the expressway alongside the Seine (2), heading for a private townhouse in western Paris where they intend to spend the night. Minutes later, the car enters a tunnel by the River Seine, apparently pursued at high-speed by up to seven paparazzi photographers on motorcycles.

12.40am: The car goes out of control and crashes, killing Dodi Fayed and the driver instantly (1).

Diana, gravely injured, is trapped for more than an hour before being lifted clear. Doctors at the scene give her external heart massage. Her bodyguard, Trevor Rees-Jones

survives. Seven photographers are detained at the scene by police.

Shortly after 2am: Diana arrives at the Hôpital Sainte-Élisabeth Hospital. She is suffering from massive chest injuries and bleeding; soon after arrival, she suffers a cardiac arrest. Surgeons begin a desperate two-hour battle to try to save her life, including opening her chest and massaging her heart by hand. The British ambassador in Paris, Sir Michael Jay, rushes to the hospital immediately on being informed of the accident by the French authorities. He informs the Royal Family, including the Prince of Wales, who are on holiday at Balmoral. Prime Minister Tony Blair is also awoken and informed of the accident. Mohammed Al Fayed, father of Dodi, flies by helicopter to Paris after being told of the death of his 41-year-old son.

Around 4am: Diana is pronounced dead by doctors in the hospital's emergency unit. The French ambassador telephones Balmoral and informs the Queen's private secretary that Diana has died. The Prince of Wales is informed and breaks the news to his sons, Princes William and Harry.

as it headed west along the Cours Albert Premier and entered the underpass beneath the Place d'Alma, presumably heading for the Fayed town house in the fashionable 16th arrondissement. The paparazzi bikes are still in close pursuit.

The short tunnel has a wickedly sharp left-hand bend.

12.15am or so: The Mercedes strikes one of the pillars dividing the westbound carriageway of the tunnel from the east-bound. It strikes at least one more pillar and then rebounds against the tunnel wall on the other side. It finishes, the right way up, but facing the wrong way, horrifically crushed at the front and the back, with part of the engine in the front passenger seat.

The car was thought to have been travelling at 100km/h (around 60mph) in a 50km area. At the presumed point of impact, the car was crushed to a depth of one metre, police said. One rumour suggests later that a hit-and-run in front of the car. Police sources

say this is not so. There is no evidence that any of the bikes was directly involved in the crash. The working assumption is that the driver misjudged the bend.

12.27am: Emergency services are called to the scene. Dodi Fayed and the driver are dead; the Princess of Wales unconscious; her bodyguard, conscious but seriously injured. An emergency medical team removes the Princess from the car and attempt for at least 30 minutes, one report suggests for longer, to revive her at the roadside.

Witness reports say that, meanwhile, the pursuing photographers have stopped at the crash scene and taken pictures. One of them was attacked physically by other witnesses. American tourists, who passed in a car just after the accident, said there was "a great argument" going on. The seven photographers, six French and one Macedonian, and several other witnesses are taken for questioning to police headquarters beside Notre-Dame cathedral. They remain there all day.

1.30am (approximately): The Princess of Wales arrives at the Hôpital Sainte-Élisabeth, in the 13th arrondissement. She has wounds to her skull, arms and leg but the most serious injuries are internal, a damaged lung and torn veins, caused by the violence of the impact itself. The French minister of the interior, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, and the British ambassador, Sir Michael Jay, go to her bedside.

For more than two hours, two doctors, Professor Bruno Riou and Professor Philippe Pavie, attempt to revive the Princess. They conduct external and internal heart massages and a thoracotomy (opening of the thorax). Professor Riou explained later that the internal injuries, including a severely torn pulmonary vein which he had patched to no avail, were caused by the effects of the body of a sudden stop at high speed.

4am: Diana, Princess of Wales, dies from "haemorrhaging in the chest, followed by heart failure".



The wreckage of the Mercedes after Saturday night's fatal crash in the Paris road tunnel

Photograph: AP

A hole was torn in her heart ... she could not be saved

Charles Arthur

Science Editor

French surgeons tried unsuccessfully for more than two hours to restart the Princess's heart, but the injuries she had suffered - and particularly one to a tiny and fragile, but vital blood vessel - are almost fatal.

Even with the best medical help, barely anyone survives the necessary surgery, experts said yesterday.

Bruno Riou, head of the intensive-care unit of the Hôpital Sainte-Élisabeth in eastern Paris, about four miles from the crash scene, said the Princess's heart stopped beating on arrival at the hospital, almost 90 minutes after the crash, due to massive blood loss inside her chest.

"Her chest cavity was urgently opened up, revealing a significant wound to her left pulmonary vein. Despite a closure of the wound and an external and internal cardiac massage lasting two hours, no effective circulation could be re-established."

Her death was finally confirmed at 4am (0300 BST), almost three and a half hours after the accident.

One anonymous source who claimed to have seen the body of the Princess said the Princess's face was almost unrecognisable by the crash. "She wanted to die beautiful ... her face was preserved," he said.

The crash caused serious internal injuries, tearing a hole in one of the four pulmonary veins - thin-walled blood vessels less than an inch long which bring oxygen-rich blood from the lungs to the heart, to be pumped to the body.

Emergency surgeons rank damage to those as more serious than almost any other wound. The veins lie behind the heart and lungs, in the chest cavity. "Even getting at them is an exceptionally difficult challenge," said Stephen Miles, a specialist in accident and emergency medicine at the Royal London Hospital yesterday.

The seriousness of the Princess's injuries meant that she would have rapidly lost consciousness at the scene - possibly even before the car stopped moving. She never regained consciousness.

Ambulance workers at the scene said they managed to get her heart beating using external heart massage, while she was trapped for an hour in the car's wreckage. A special team meanwhile assembled at the hospital, which specialises in emergency treatment.

When she was taken there the team of more than 10 surgeons discovered she was suffering heart failure from blood loss and immediately opened her chest cavity, where they discovered a wound to the pulmonary vein amidst massive internal bleeding in the chest.

cavity. While some of the team tried to repair the vessel, the Princess received more than 20 pints of blood, and other doctors used manual and electronic methods to try to shock the heart back into action - including squeezing it to keep blood pumping - because brain damage can rapidly occur without a constant flow of oxygenated blood.

But Mr Miles said that such cases are almost hopeless for surgeons.

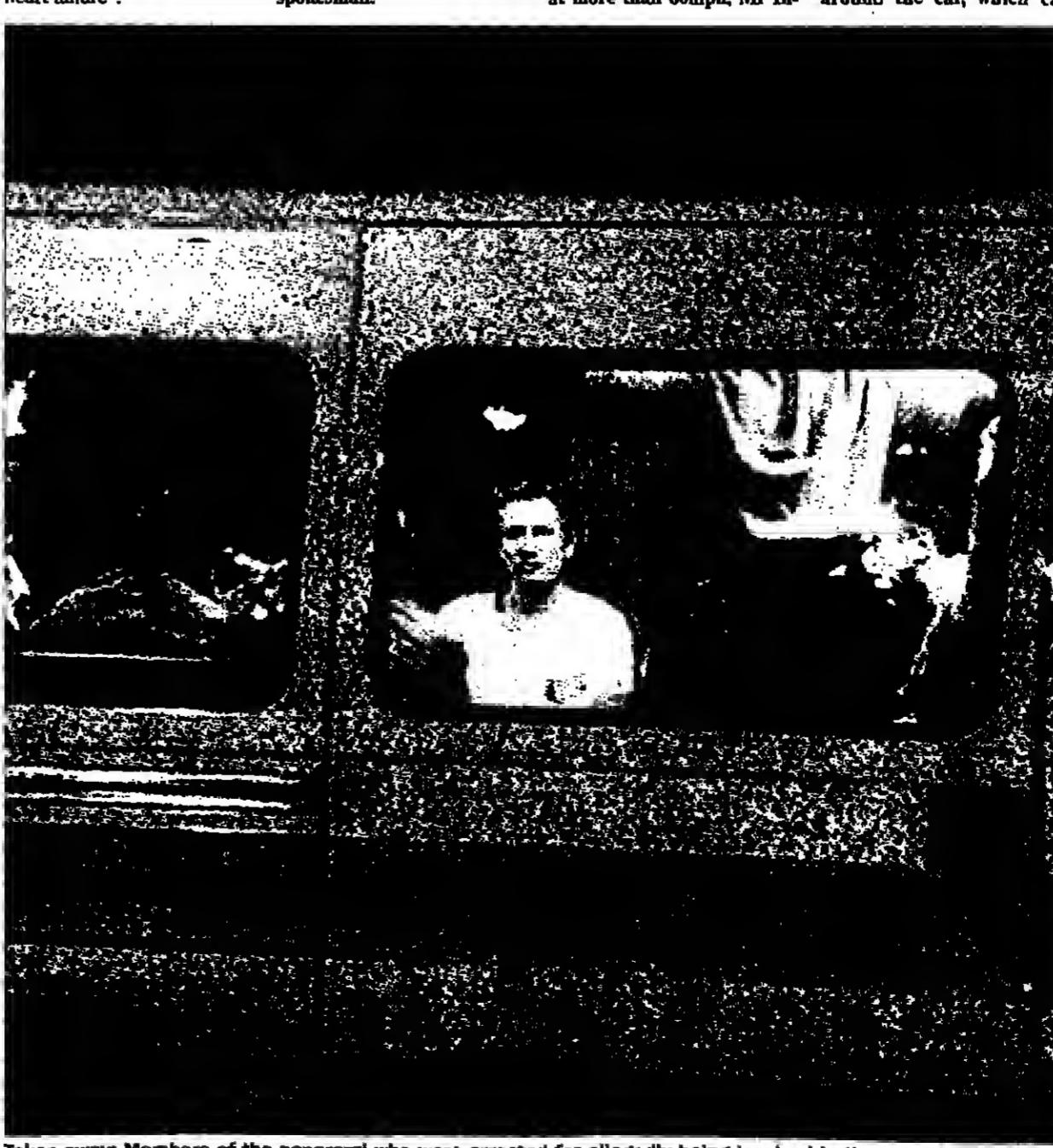
"Survival is almost anecdotal," he said. "The problem is not just the haemorrhage that has happened. Because the blood transfusion comes from a blood bank, it doesn't clot, and that makes another haemorrhage more likely."

Alastair Wilson, another expert emergency surgeon, commented: "I don't think we could have done better here. This was the very best care possible, and I think they did all that they could in the circumstances - which were extreme."

Mr Miles added: "With these kind of injuries heroic measures are called for but are very rarely successful."

"These were mortal injuries. With such a large and major vessel leaking, a patient can bleed to death very quickly."

Initial reports mistakenly said that the Princess had suffered concussion, a broken arm and cuts to her leg in the high-speed crash.



Taken away: Members of the paparazzi who were arrested for allegedly being involved in the pursuit of Diana and Dodi Fayed are driven to a police station in Paris for questioning

cause deadly injury. "Seatbelts are the first major point of protection to keep you in the vehicle and keep you from striking things in the vehicle," he said.

The Mercedes S-Class is the manufacturer's top range, with a starting price of £70,000 and a top speed of 155mph. The luxury saloon is popular with top executives, celebrities and politicians.

The model involved was equipped with airbags for both the driver and front passenger. However, back-seat passengers only have their seatbelts to protect them in a crash.

Officials at Mercedes have offered their assistance to French accident investigators.

I don't think we could have done better. This was the very best care possible. I think they did all they could given the situation, which was extreme,

*Alastair Wilson,
Surgeon*

the tragedy

THE UNIVERSE
SERIALS 010517
CLASS TFC 1997
DATE 1

Diana 1961-1997

paparazzi that ended in carnage

Even in the tiniest ways, she had touched their lives

A middle-aged man stood apart from the crowd, his face impassive as he leaned against the railing. He had been up all night, praying for Princess Diana's survival. Who he heard she had not made it, he headed for Kensington Palace. He had hardly stopped crying since.

For the past few years he had met the Princess at least once a week. Whenever she had a birthday or anniversary he had made a point of giving her some flowers or a present. Only last Thursday he had delivered 100 red roses to her door, to mark the first anniversary of her divorce. "She came out to receive them personally," he said. "She shook my hand and smiled at me. I'll always remember that smile."

Now he felt physically sick: it was like losing a member of his family or his best friend, he said. Such a special bond seemed odd – until slowly it emerged that this was the homeless man whom Princess Diana had famously saved from drowning in a lake in Regent's Park three years ago. Martin O'Donoghue, as he was then (he has changed his name by deed poll and grown a beard to avoid being recognised by the press) feels he owes everything to Princess Diana. "If it hadn't been for her, I wouldn't have been where I am today."

There were thousands outside Kensington Palace yesterday who felt similarly moved by the death of Princess Diana. People of all nationalities all walks of life and ages had come to pay their last respects.

A South African tourist joined an orderly queue alongside an HIV-positive man who had bumped into Princess Diana on an early morning shopping spree in Harvey Nichols before he had been diagnosed. A Croatian woman was comforted by a young boy, while a Chinese man tied a white silk scarf to the railings and burnt incense above it.

One card was signed "on behalf of land mine survivors and



Touched by Diana: Grief and disbelief at the news of the Princess's death were etched on the faces of people who gathered outside Buckingham Palace yesterday

Photograph: Tom Pilston

victims", another from "The people of Pakistan". Yet another came from the "Somali community". A helium balloon had "Our Queen of Hearts" written across it in big letters, words often repeated, as if Princess Diana had been writing her own obituary in the *Panorama* interview two years over and over again. People were saying "she was one of us".

Biba Blaskovic, a 49-year-old Croatian, knelt before the gilded gates, praying and crossing herself with her rosary. The entrance had become a sort of shrine and anyone who drew near automatically respected the solemnity. Ms Blaskovic

normal Sunday with prams being pushed, dogs walked and couples strolling hand in hand. People sat in small groups, apparently soaking up the sun. On closer inspection, the scene was anything but normal. The groups were soaking up the sadness, not the sun. Anyone upright was either making their way to or returning from the Palace.

High Street Kensington was uncharacteristically hectic for a Sunday morning. The traffic was at a standstill and the entrance to the Palace carpeted in flowers: sunflowers, lilies and honeysuckle. On the face of it, in the park behind was just another

pressed tissues to her eyes to stem the tears, murmuring that Princess Diana was "like a Catholic saint". A chapel should be built where people could go and pray to her, she added.

Beneath the surface, there was a barely suppressed rage. People wanted someone or something to blame. When a man stood up and gave a spontaneous speech castigating the wall of photographers, the crowd let out a cheer. "Parasites," they chorused. "The press got their blood money."

Others took swipes at the Royal Family. "Her husband's no good," wailed an Iranian woman. "At least she knew hap-

iness for two months of her life," cried another. One card was pointedly addressed to HRH Princess of Wales.

Some mourners lit candles, others brought teddy bears. Many scrawled messages on the familiar head-shaped postcards of Princess Diana in a sparkling star. Royal Ballet programmes, a Rolling Stones record sleeve and, regrettably, a Harrods drink container, were among the tributes people left.

Lord Thomas and his partner Ceri, both wearing red ribbons, were devastated by the sudden loss. As fundraisers for Aids charities, they would sorely miss Diana. But they were de-

termined to retain some sense of humour. "She may have been a Princess," said Ceri, "but she's been loved by queens all over London and there will be one big party for her. We'll send her off in style."

Mike Berry, a station assistant at High Street Kensington tube station, would miss her too. "She was always about," he said, adding his bouquet to the pile. "She was always very pleasant. Up and down the High Street. One of us."

Mr O'Donoghue, the tramp whom Princess Diana saved, prepared to leave. He had places to go and people to see. *The Sun* had bought his story.

She came out to receive the flowers personally. She shook my hand and smiled at me. I'll always remember that smile. It's like losing my best friend.

Martin O'Donoghue

A bunch of red roses swung gently over the tunnel mouth

John Lichfield
and Joanna Lee
Paris

A bunch of red roses hung by a length of string from the top of the tunnel mouth, twisting gently in the slipstream from the cars once again speeding below.

By mid-day, there were scores of bunches of flowers all over the Place d'Alma: some piled up either side of the tunnel in which Diana was fatally injured; some propped up against the statue of the Flame of Liberty in the square above. Most had messages in French: some in English. "May you rest in peace, Diana. We will not forget you, Queen of Hearts". "Thank you for all that you have given us. So sorry that it has ended this way"; and: "Diana, I hope you will rest now a little. We are all with you forever".

Crowds came and went: many well-wishers, others just curious, unsuspecting tourists, attracted by the fuss, and astonished to discover what had happened.

Diana and Dodi's car, acceler-

erating to avoid soopers, crashed in the epicentre of tourist Paris. "Lady Diana was killed here" you're kidding me," one American was saying as a French passer-by tried to break the news to him in broken English. "Diana and her lover," he said. "They were being chased by the photographers ..."

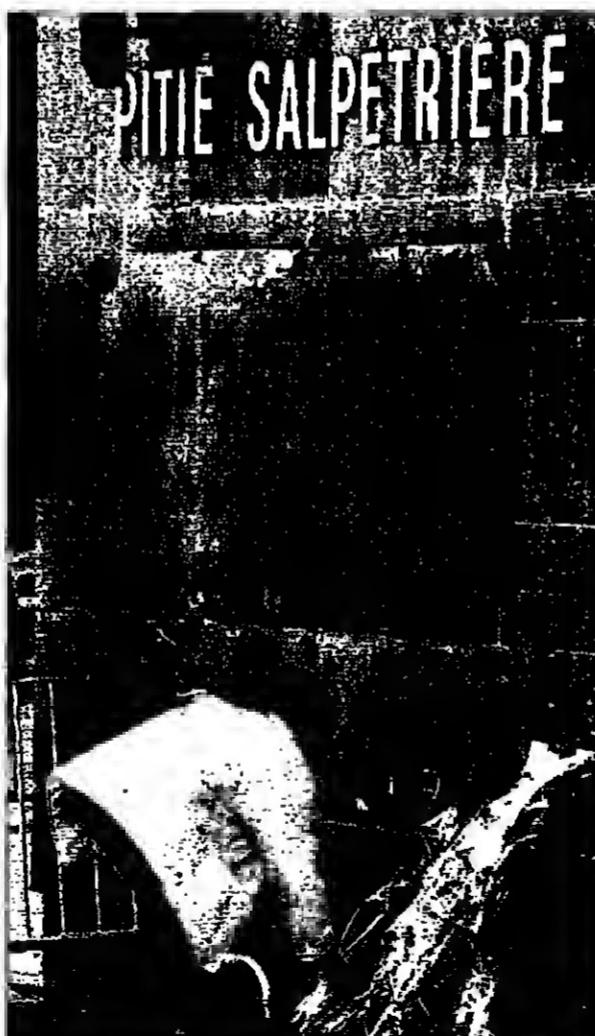
In the trampled garden above the tunnel mouth, two middle-aged men were having an argument in front of a TV camera. Witnesses? No, just theorists. "Have you ever had motor-cycle lights pursuing you in the dark? That could have caused the accident alone," said one. "You know nothing. They must have been driving too fast. There is a sharp bend in the tunnel ..."

The shallow underpass, with concrete pillars dividing the carriageways, is part of a network of fast routes built along the banks of the Seine in the 1970s. One middle-aged woman was leaning over the barrier, staring down at the road into the tunnel. "I came as soon as I heard the news on the radio," just for the sake of a photo."

A mnther's death is nearly always hard to take, at any age, but when she dies just as her children are entering their teens, just as they are beginning to flap their wings in preparation for their flight, this is perhaps the worst time of all. At a moment when 15-year-old William and 12-year-old Harry should be looking forward, with the stability of their mother to keep them secure in the background, she is suddenly gone, in a single,

cruel flash. No long illness to prepare them; just a tragic shocking accident that came completely out of the blue. Apart from the misery of losing pretty much of a super-mum, with her spontaneous kisses, her own obvious enjoyment when she accompanied them to the movies, McDonald's or Alton Towers, there will be anger and guilt.

Prince William has long played, to an extent, the little man around the house. He



A tribute being placed at the hospital in eastern Paris to which the Princess was taken after the accident

Prince paid his last respects ... then the coffin lid was closed

Louise Jury
Paris

She came to say her final goodbye to the woman the French call Lady Di. Perched on a wall next to the railings of the Pitie Salpetriere Hospital, Giselle Dartues, a middle-aged Parisienne, had tears in her eyes. "It's very, very sad. Lady Di was very, very kind. The whole country liked her a great deal," she said.

Michele Dupont, her friend, said they had come to show "solidarity". "It's impossible to understand this," she said.

Just as crowds had gathered outside Kensington Palace, the people of France came yesterday to the hospital where staff had fought to save Diana.

About 5.40 local time they saw a grave-faced Prince Charles arrive, accompanied by Diana's two sisters, Lady Sarah McCorquodale and Lady Jane Fellowes, together with her husband Robert, the principal private secretary to the Queen, to be greeted by 12 members of the Guard Republicaine in blue, gold and red uniforms.

Inside, he met President Chirac and two of the doctors who tried to save Diana, Professor Bruno Riou, an anaesthetist, and Professor Alain Pavie, a cardiac surgeon.

The Prince and the two sisters were then led to a private room where Diana had been laid out in a coffin and they paid their respects. The lid of the coffin was then closed and draped with the royal emblem and placed in a blue Renault hearse.

A select number of photographers had been invited to the hospital for a short photocall and some hospital staff shouted at them, "Assassins" and "Show some respect".

After 25 minutes, the party left the hospital. The French pallbearers carried the coffin, now draped in the Royal Standard, to a hearse, led by the Reverend Martin Draper of the Anglican St George's Cathedral in Paris. As the hearse left the building, an embassy aide said: "Quelle jour, quelle horreur."

Two sides each carried a bouquet of lilies and gladioli, which were placed on the cof-

fin before the cortège left for Villacoublay military airport for the return flight to Britain. As it swept away, the crowd broke out into a ripple of applause, like an audible signal of condolence.

At the airport, Charles watched grimly as the coffin was loaded into the belly of the plane by eight pallbearers led by the bearer party commander, Flight Lieutenant Kelly. French troops stood silently to attention, weapons across their chests in salute.

As the coffin left for Britain, the French reflected on the special popularity that Diana had among them. Outside the hospital, many had spoken of the effect her death would have on the young prince and discussed the "tragedy" of her life. And for those who continued to stand outside long after the royal party had been and gone, Diana was clearly not like any other patient at all.

On the hospital steps, candles flickered in memory of a woman who had been held in special regard by the French.

Anger, guilt and the challenge for her two 'little men'



Virginia Ironside
on the prospects for the Princes

has been of the James James Morrison Morrison Wetherby George Dupree type of boy, who "took great care of his mother, though he was only three," Mother, he said, said he, "Don't go down to the end of the town without consulting me." Although it's an arch poem, by AA Milne, it sums up precisely the responsibility that even the smallest of boys can feel for their mothers, and who, as is to this

case, she did go down to the end of the town and never come back. William may well feel immense, irrational guilt. The boys' feelings will not be helped by the fact that the Royal Family their mother was always an outsider, and, however much they may make declarations of affection now, she and they often appeared at loggerheads. And who have the boys got to turn to now? Only the bogeyman of her life, the Royal Family.

In reality I have no doubt that Prince Charles, who has seen his sons for six months of every year, Tiggy Legge Boucke, who has been an affectionate nanny figure to them, and the rest of the relations, will be supportive, but there is no getting away from the boys' feeling that to bleed in with that side of the family will be siding with the enemy, disloyal to their mother. They will be put into a tremendously difficult situation.

They will, too, be enraged and overwhelmed by the enormity of the situation.

Adults all round them will be yakking oo about the Princess's great work for charity, her beauty, her kindness, her heroism, and William and Harry will feel in the background. What about us, they will be saying? Aren't we, who were the most important people in mum's life, now still more important than anything? We couldn't

care less how many mine victims she cuddled, it's our cuddles we'll miss.

The Princess of Wales prettily must lost her own mother when she ran off when Diana was six. This always caused her great problems. Her death will cause the boys enormous problems, too. But perhaps, and hopefully, she will have given them just enough good mothering to help them through this awful, tragic time in their young lives.

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Diana 1961-1997

the tributes

'Devastated' PM tells of grief for people's princess

Ian Burrow

An emotional Tony Blair described Diana the "people's princess" as he led the nation's tributes to the Princess of Wales. Speaking in a trembling

voice outside a church in his Sedgefield constituency, he said that Britons would never forget Diana, the Princess who had brought Dodi Hockley and comfort to people all over the world.

"They liked her, they loved her, they regarded her as one of the people," he said. "She was the people's princess and that's why she will stay, how she will remain, in our hearts and in our memories for ever."

He went on: "I feel, like everyone else in this country to-suspects day, utterly devastated. We are just today a nation in a state of shock, in mourning, in grief that pursues so deeply painful for us."

As the country awoke to the news of the fatal crash, politicians, clergymen, church leaders, charity Principals and entertainers joined the Princess's friends and relatives in paying tribute to what she had achieved in her short life.

had it. The Princess's brother, Earl Spencer, spoke of his "heartbreak".

Italy. He said: "All those who they have come into contact with

Diana, particularly over the last 17 years, will share my family's

Hotel. She was unique. She un-

derstood the most precious

needs of human beings, particu-

larly those who suffered."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who re-

lately joined the Princess at

Spam Prince William's confirmation

in classes, said: "The world has lost

a vibrant, lovely young person-

pher." The word passion seems to

chase him up, commitment, to

charities, to causes. She was a deeply

religious person in the sense

that she cared about people. She

didn't associate with institu-

tional Christianity. There was

her faith in her whole personality."

away Cardinal Basil Hume, leader

of the Roman Catholic Church

in England and Wales, said: "My

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trave

*'She was one
of the best
ambassadors
for Britain'*

Nelson Mandela

*We liked her
very much.
We admired
her work'*

Bill Clinton

*'She was
well known
and loved by
the Russian
people'*

Boris Yeltsin

*'She was a
woman of
our time and
full of life'*

Jacques Chirac

*'She was the
symbol of
humanity
and love for
the world'*

Luciano Pavarotti



Tony Blair (left), who in an emotional tribute praised the 'people's Princess', and her brother, Earl Spencer (right), who spoke of her great sense of duty

She was unique. She understood the most precious needs of human beings, particularly those who suffered

Earl Spencer, Diana's brother

deepest sympathy goes out to all the Royal Family and particularly to her two sons, to whom she was so devoted."

The desire of the Princess to help those less fortunate than herself was the recurring theme among those seeking words to express her legacy.

Nick Partridge, chief executive of the Terrence Higgins Trust, said she had taken the stigma away from Aids.

"She was one of the first and most committed champions on this issue. It will be a struggle for the Aids community to come to terms with her death," he said.

Television presenter Esther Rantzen, who founded the charity Childline, said: "People in Wales loved her.

"I am as broken-hearted as the rest of the country," he said.

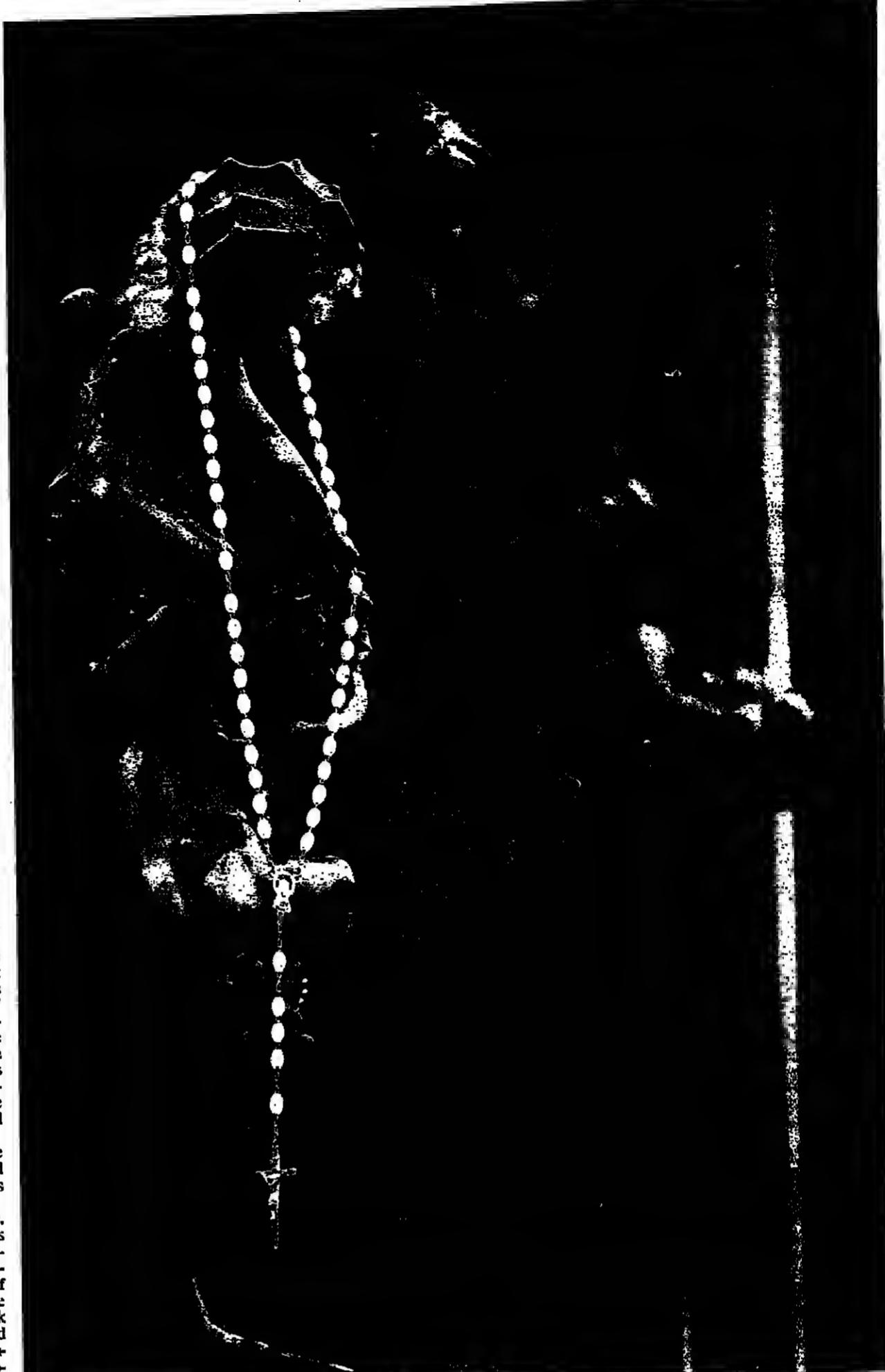
"We have suffered a grievous loss because she was unique. No one ever contained so much compassion and care in one body."

Only six weeks ago the Princess attended a memorial mass in Milan for murdered fashion designer Gianni Versace. During the Mass the Princess comforted her friend Elton John and yesterday the singer said of her death: "The world has lost one of its most compassionate humanitarians and I have lost a special friend."

Rosa Monckton, who recently holidayed with the Princess, said: "I would just like to say that as a friend she was steadfast and loyal and whenever I had any setback in my life she was immediately there and would drop everything."

"She did everything from the heart. Her heart ruled her head which is why, I think, she was so often misunderstood."

The Opposition Leader, William Hague, said: "She was a unique and very lively and attractive individual and so people will feel a personal sense of loss. We should also pay tribute today to the tremendous work she did for people involved with drugs... with Aids and other diseases, for homeless people, for young people in general, for causes such as the arts."



One of the many tributes left yesterday outside Buckingham Palace

Photograph: Brian Hains

From Mandela to Clinton, the world pours out a litany of heartfelt grief

Andrew Marshall

There are always ritual outpourings of grief when a person with the world stature of Princess Diana dies. But the reactions yesterday were far more heartfelt, more personal and direct than usual. Princess Diana was known personally to many of the world's leaders, and for once the grief and regret were real.

In one of the more moving tributes, Nelson Mandela said that he and fellow South Africans were "devastated" by the news. "I had the honour of hosting her a few months ago and was tremendously impressed by her. She was undoubtedly one of the best ambassadors for Great Britain," he said.

"I found her very grateful, highly intelligent and committed to worthy causes and was tremendously impressed by her warmth."

"We liked her very much. We admired her work," Bill Clinton said. "For myself, I will always be glad that I knew the princess and always think of her in very strong and positive terms, as will Hillary."

He sent a message of condolences that sounded more than usually heartfelt. "I know that this is a very difficult time for millions of people in the United Kingdom, who are deeply shocked and grieving, and the American people send their condolences. We value their friendship and we understand this great and painful experience," he said.

President and Mrs Clinton were told while they were at a beach party. They embraced and were visibly shaken, a spokesman said, then settled in front of a television set with other party guests to watch breaking news coverage. They left the party soon afterwards.

Russia's President Boris Yeltsin also expressed his deep sorrow. "The President of the Russian Federation B.N. Yeltsin is deeply shocked by the news from Paris of the tragic loss of Princess Diana," said a statement from the Kremlin. "She was well known and loved by the Russian people. All know of Princess Diana's big contribution to charitable work, and not only in Great Britain," it said.

There was deep regret in Aus-



Nelson Mandela and Jacques Chirac were among the world leaders to pay tribute to the Princess of Wales yesterday



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Palace breaks news on Internet

Charles Arthur
Science Editor

The news of the Princess's death spread so rapidly over the Internet that by 8.30am yesterday, one Australian user said, "Everyone knows about Di's death by now."

But it took Buckingham Palace another hour to re-jig its official Web page (<http://www.royal.gov.uk/>) to include the news. The normal crest and picture of Buckingham Palace were replaced with a sombre black background and an image of a smiling princess carrying a bouquet of flowers with the simple caption: "Diana, Princess of Wales 1961 - 31 August 1997". It also included an official, if brief and bowdlerised, biography, and a page on which users could pass their condolences on to the Royal Family.

The former 165 pages of notes about the family was cut to fewer than 10, all about Diana. As soon as the changes had been made, the site was overwhelmed with "hits" from users all over the world logging in for news and to pay their respects.

Set up in May, the Royal Family's website – operated and maintained by the Government – is already one of the most popular sites on the World Wide Web. In one week, it was visited almost 1.3 million times.

News sites such as that operated by CNN (<http://www.cnn.com/>) also carried comprehensive coverage of the accident in Paris, updating it through the day as pictures – including that of the princess's coffin – became available.

But in the Internet's discussion groups, the reaction ranged from mixtures of horror and sadness, to conspiracy theories, to a cynical shrug from those who felt that the accident was a small event in a distant country involving people they did not know. "Call me paranoid if you like," began one, who then suggested that landmine manufacturers and the Royal Family were "none to [sic] happy with Diana interfering with affairs they'd rather like to be untouched by such a high-profile figure."

Others felt it was a routine car accident. "The driver was just going too fast for the conditions," said one bored American. And one cynical poster suggested the lesson was: "Don't drive a Mercedes at high speed into a concrete tunnel. Much better to slow down and smile at the photographer."

tralia from republicans and royalists alike. "On behalf of the Australian government and the Australian people I want to extend my very deep sympathy, particularly to her two young sons who have suffered the trauma of a marriage break-up and have now lost their mother at the very young age of 36," said Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

The Princess had done much to keep the monarchy's image youthful and contemporary in Australia, a country where republicanism has made great strides in recent years.

ABC television scrapped its Sunday afternoon programme schedules and replaced them with a live satel-

lite broadcast of BBC television from Britain, an interruption heard-of in Australia, even for grave international political crises.

Many paid tribute to her humanitarian role. Imra Khan, a close friend of the Princess, said she had left a legacy of service to the needy. She "achieved unprecedented heights to the service of mankind," he said. Diana visited Pakistan in May to help Imran Khan and his wife, Jemima Goldsmith, raise more than \$12m for the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital.

French President Jacques Chirac said: "It is with tremendous emotion that I learn of the brutal loss of Lady Diana. She was a young woman of our time, warm, full of life and generosity. Her tragic death will be profoundly felt because she was a familiar figure to everyone."

Several politicians commented caustically on the press pursuit of Diana, which precipitated her death.

Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl called Diana "the victim of an evermore brutal and unscrupulous competition of a part of the media."

This terrible accident and her death should finally give those responsible in the media a reason to reflect."

In Sweden, the spokeswoman for the royal household, Elisabeth Taras-Wallberg, said: "When you lit-

erally chase someone to death to make money from pictures, things have gone too far."

The Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen also criticised the media. "The bottom line must have been reached for what photographers can do," he said.

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Blood on their hands, says brother

Anthony Bevins
London
Mary Braid
Johannesburg

The most bitter condemnation of the media's alleged role in Princess Diana's death came from her brother Earl Spencer outside Tarystone House, his palatial home in Constantia, one of Cape Town's most opulent suburbs.

"I always believed the press would kill her in the end," he said. "But not even I could believe they would take such a direct hand in her death as seems to be the case."

"It would appear that every proprietor and every editor of every publication that has paid for intrusive and exploitative photographs of her, encouraging greedy and ruthless individuals to risk everything in pursuit of Diana's image, has blood on his hands today."

A long-time critic of press invasion of privacy, he did not

sion, Lord Wakeham said: "I shall be watching the situation and have to think what to do."

It is expected that the Commons National Heritage Select Committee will undertake an inquiry into privacy, but Government sources said a number of questions would need to be taken into consideration, not least how effective the law could be.

There is a French law of privacy, but that did not stop the Paris paparazzi pursuing the princess — nor would it stop the international media publishing the product, or the public buying newspapers that gave such pictures priority.

Yesterday Mark Saunders, a paparazzo who had followed Diana for five years, until six months ago, said: "A privacy law is simply not going to work, this took place in France where they have got quite strict laws."

"But frankly with Diana gone I can see the papers easing off because there is simply no one else like her around".

An official report on privacy, chaired by David Calcutt QC, said in 1990 that if the press "failed to demonstrate that non-statutory self-regulation could be made to work effectively, a statutory press tribunal for handling complaints should be introduced".

Following a review of self-regulation, Sir David reported in 1993 that he had, with regret, reached the conclusion "that the

Serious questions will have to be asked ... whether intrusion contributed to this tragedy

Robin Cook,
Foreign Secretary

Press Complaints Commission, as set up by the press, has not proved itself to be an effective regulator."

He recommended a statutory regime.

David Mellor, a former heritage secretary who was himself a victim of intrusion, with the bugging of a conversation between himself and Antonia de Sancha, once famously warned that the press had been given one more chance to clean up its act — it was running at the last stage.

David Mellor said the life of the princess had been lost because of his hatred and fear of press photographers.

"This has to be a defining moment in our society," he said, "when we recognise that we have come to the end of a chapter and have to start a new one in civilised behaviour. The world cannot be the same again after this tragedy."

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Princess William and Harry on their way to church at Balmoral yesterday

Photograph: Colin MacPherson

Pictures of deaths on sale within hours

Photographs from crash scene are offered to US tabloid for \$1m

Even in death she will make them lots of money. Photographs of the car crash in which Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed were reported to be hawked around the world yesterday for up to \$1 million. And the word on the paparazzi grapevine is there are quite a few interested parties.

The shots were said to have been taken just after the Mercedes saloon carrying Diana and Dodi Fayed crashed in a tunnel after being chased by photographers on motorcycles. French police arrested seven of them, but not before rolls of film had been taken away, according to sources.

Within hours of the fatal accident the editor of the American supermarket tabloid *National Enquirer* was being offered the pictures. Steve Coz said: "Right now, they are trying to sell them for about \$1m." He urged editors of other publications to join him in boycotting the photographs.

But that plea is likely to fall on deaf ears, according to those who know the Royal market well. Mark Saunders, a "pap" who followed Diana for five years, said he has heard the asking price was £200,000 to £250,000. "Yes there will be buyers. Not in this country, but in Europe. Whoever has got these pictures will make a hell of a lot of money. I have been told they are already on the market."

But those involved in the business say it would be impossible to expect the paparazzi to put away their motor drives, fold away the ladders and dis-

appear. The rewards are too great.

The news of Diana's affair with Dodi Fayed was broken by a cruising Italian paparazzo, Mario Bremma. He had spotted the Princess on board the Fayed yacht *Jonikal*, off St Tropez, embracing a man. He was not sure of the man's identity but knew he had hit the jackpot.

Mr Bremma, a comparatively small time operator, turned for help to London-based Jason Fraser. It was Mr Fraser who quickly identified Dodi and organised the sale of the photographs in Britain. Picture editors of a number of tabloids were invited to a viewing, said to be with an entry fee of £1,000 each, before being asked to make offers. The *Herald of Free Enterprise*, the first

to pay around £250,000 for the first rights, and the *Daily Mail* and *The Sun* £100,000 apiece for the second rights. International sales followed.

Two weeks later Mr Fraser was himself behind the camera to take a new set of pictures of Diana and Dodi on the *Jonikal* which were sold to *The Sun* for around £40,000.

Mr Fraser presents the smooth acceptable face of the paparazzi. Half Greek, half Scottish, educated at the Lycée in London, he is fluent in French, Italian and Greek. He has not always been involved with the glitterati. He got the first photo of Colonel Gadaffi after the US bombing of Tripoli, and was also the first inside *The Herald of Free Enterprise*, the first

rich and famous across the world, and handle each other's material. Their annual income is said to be between £300,000 and £500,000.

Mark Saunders and his partner Glen Harvey had stalked Princess Diana for five years. Six months ago she approached them at a Sainsbury's car park near her gym, the Harbour Club in south-west London, complained bitterly and asked them to leave him alone.

Mr Saunders, 33, said: "We agreed to do so. Frankly I had enough of the whole thing, an the fun had begun to wear off. She was under tremendous pressure at the time, and there was always the fear she would crack. She had been a goldmine for the paps, people had mad fortunes from her. There simply no one to replace her."

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Shy girl who fled from the cameras became a supreme manipulator

Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

The roots of the Royal Family's problems with the media lie in a film that was shown when the Princess of Wales was only eight years old.

Royal Family, Richard Cawston's documentary which attracted audiences of 22 million and 15 million on the BBC and ITV in 1969, was intended to usher in a new age of openness for the Royals. It showed them as they lived, talking to each other, having a barbecue at Balmoral and doing good works.

But some feel that the two hours of scripted informality whetted the public's appetite for more and more information, and led to the kind of overbearing attention from photographers which preceded Saturday night's car crash.

Princess Diana's life in the public glare and the manner of her death made a complete circle. For most people their first memory of her is of a young blonde woman running down the Brompton Road in west London trying to get away from photographers and into her Mini. If Diana had been chosen as royal consort with half-an-eye on the media's response, she seemed to have been the perfect choice.

The public were sold on the fairy-tale wedding story and the press knew that putting Diana on the front page would shift papers. But the nerve-racking debate over whether the newsreading was falling meant that the fairy-tale story wasn't strong enough to sustain the tabloids as they had been for earlier generations of Royals.

When the marriage started dis-

integrated both parties tried to use the media to hold on to the public's sympathy. This ambiguous relationship with the press will haunt any simple attempt to blame the media for her death.

In 1993 Sir David Calcutt's report into invasion of privacy by the press was blown apart by the revelations that large sections of the establishment were intrusions contrived by the Princess herself and her entourage. He also pointed out: "The Princess had, in practice, invaded her own privacy."

This included giving authorisation to her friends to talk to Andrew Morton for his book *Diana: Her Own Story* in which it was revealed that she had at



Flashpoint: Diana remonstrating with a photographer outside her gym in London earlier this year

Queen Mother plan helps keep BBC on record

Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

do its duty to the Royal Family by being the biggest news story of the decade.

The BBC has been rehearsing for some years its planned coverage of the Queen Mother's death and reporters, newreaders and even weathermen yesterday appeared on screen wearing black ties. Only John Sissons, the BBC's main anchor during the day, went without one.

As part of the plans it had been agreed that the national anthem should feature in all of the coverage: "We are the nation's broadcaster and it was fitting that the anthem be played as a matter of respect."

On commercial television, ITN broadcast a special bulletin in the middle of the night on ITV then closed down until GMTV went on air at 5am. It took the financial difficulty to drop advertising from its continuous news broadcasts yesterday until 6.30pm. Channel 4 played a taped tribute in between news broadcasts from ITN until 10.30am while Channel 5 stayed with its children's broadcasts but with extended news bulletins.

All of the BBC's local radio stations merged at 5am yesterday with Radios 2, 3, 4 and 5 Live. A special broadcast was presented jointly by Radio 4's *Today* presenter Jane Naughtie and Radio 5 Live's breakfast show presenter Peter Allen until 9.30am. Radios 4 and 5 Live continued their joint broadcast throughout the day while Radio 5 switched to slow pop songs and Radio 3 to slow movements from popular classics.

Loathed we may be, but don't shoot the messenger

As a news photographer, I cannot condone the methods employed by the paparazzi but I do understand their motives. I have tried throughout my working life to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, of integrity and honesty.

I, along with many of my colleagues, don't like to be tarred with the same brush as the "paps". This moronic outside Buckingham Palace press photographers had to endure the public's anger and outrage.

The tragic death of a 36-year-old mother of two teenage boys, her boyfriend and his chauffeur, happened yesterday morning because we the reading public demanded yet more and more arresting and compromising images of one of the world's most famous people.

We the public didn't stop buying the tabloids when Diana was on the front page; instead we bought more and more. Sales of these papers soared as a result.

In short, the Princess sold papers and magazines in their millions all over the world. Publishers made colossal sums of money out of these sales, editors commanded huge salaries if their circulation was high, and the photographers who provided the images could make a very good living.

And of course the readers were happy. (Otherwise why carry on buying the products?) Our hands were clean, no blood here.

In fact, we are all responsible.

Brian Harris,
Independent
photographer,
says that
readers always
get the press
they deserve

sible for this tragedy. The readers, the journalists, the photographers and the newspaper proprietors must bear some of the blame for the deaths in Paris yesterday morning. As Lord Beaverbrook, one-time owner of the *Daily Express* once said, "The public gets the result it deserves."

Don't shoot the messenger, in this case the press photographers; instead look to yourselves. I know we in the media will be doing exactly that over the days and weeks to come.

If any good can come out of this tragedy, it will be a full and open debate on proposed privacy laws and if they were to come into effect, at least we in the media would know where we stand from a legal point of view.

With the marriage stand dis-

*Diana 1961-1997**the fayed**Du*

Outsider's son who courted a princess

Ian Burrell

It was a relationship that lasted only a few short weeks but it gave Diana, Princess of Wales, some of the happiest moments of her life. Yet it also terrified sections of the British establishment.

Dodi Fayed lived like a prince, owning a string of mansions in Beverly Hills and moving effortlessly in the circles of the international jet set.

But he was also the son of Mohamed Al Fayed, the billionaire owner of Harrods and the *bête noire* of the British ruling classes.

John L. Twice spurned in his quest for British citizenship, Mr Al Fayed had apparently exacted his revenge by destroying the Conservative government through its revelations in the "cash-for-questions" affair, parazzi Having already controversially gained ownership of "the top people's store" he could now imagine word re himself in attendance at the next coronation as the step-grandfather couple of the new king.

The public only became aware of parazzi Diana's links with the Fayed's in July, on. But when the Princess was pictured in suggest a swimsuit on board the Harrods just on owner's yacht in the French riviera, it later emerged that the 64-year-old proprietor had long thought that Diana and his son were

5pm well-matched and had invited the time. Princess to join his family, including Prince Dodi, 41, on holiday in St Tropez. To his joy the couple clicked, last h. When new pictures quickly emerged of the pair in tender emoji, the nation was stunned yet fas- had its mind. "Dodi's New Man" is Al sumed Fayed's Son and "Dodi's Secret Hol aircraft with Harrods Hunk Dodi," ran the Italy newspaper headlines,

they fl. But the carping from royal ob-

5.30 servers began almost at once. "What raphe? In earth does she think she's play- Hotel sing at," said one courier.

The car. "He may be frightfully generous

owned with his yachts but he is not the sort

who strikes me as being a good long-

one-term bet."

It was pointed out that Dodi had

photographed previously romanced countless

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Family: Salah, Dodi and Mohamed Al Fayed. Photograph: All Action

Dodi Fayed was kind, gentle and courteous – and he was a great person with young people

Michael Cole, Harrods director

other beautiful and famous women including Brooke Shields, Koo Stark, Marie Helvin and Joanne Whalley. For eight months he had been married to model Suzanne Gregard. But Diana too had found it hard to sustain friendships with men after the breakdown of her marriage. She had been linked to Will Carling, the former England rugby captain, Oliver Hoare, an art dealer, and Hasnat Khan, a heart surgeon. Dodi, with his international lifestyle and acceptance of privacy intrusions and the attentions of bodyguards, was in some regards

better suited than most to building a long-term relationship with the world's most famous woman.

Furthermore, Dodi had apparently struck up a rapport with the young princess, William and Harry.

The Princess made little or no attempt to deny the affair and told friends that the holiday with Dodi had been the happiest of her life.

Mohamed Al Fayed could not conceal his pride. "I give them my blessing," he told a newspaper.

"They are both adults. She is a lovely girl and he is my son and I love him very much. They seem to enjoy each other's company a lot and it

makes me happy to see them both so happy."

Despite the apparent suddenness of the relationship, the couple had first met 10 years earlier at a polo match in Windsor.

Diana's stepmother, Raine, Countess of Chambon, is an old friend of the Fayed family and was delighted with the match, praising Dodi's "immaculate manners". She said: "I love the whole family. I've known them all for 15 years."

The friendship between the Fayed and Spencer families began when Mohamed Al Fayed was introduced to the late Earl Spencer, the Princess's father. Soon Raine was sending her cook from the family home at Althorp for training at Mr Al Fayed's Ritz hotel in Paris.

Dodi Fayed is believed to have been educated at Le Rosey school in Switzerland and later attended the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. His mother was Samira Khashoggi, the sister of Adnao Khashoggi, the Saudi Arabian arms dealer.

Unlike his father, he never chased after a British passport and held joint Egyptian and United Arab Emirates citizenship and a right of residence in America. He was a director of Harrods and, when in London, he worked in the store's product development department.

Michael Cole, director of public affairs at Harrods, said that Dodi was "kind, gentle and courteous" and "a great person with young people".

For nine months of the year Dodi was in Hollywood, where he ran a production company called Allied Stars and made a name by working on the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*, *Hook* and *The World According to Garp*.

But his relationship with the most photographed woman on the planet thrust the film-maker in front of the cameras.

When he died, Dodi Fayed, whose fairy-tale life ended in the arms of a princess, was working on a film project based on the story of Peter Pan.

Diana and Dodi Fayed walking on a pontoon in St Tropez on Friday; the Princess told friends that a recent holiday with Dodi had been the happiest of her life. Photograph: AP/Patrick Bar, Nice-Matin

of her material wealth was collected. Her collection of jewellery, including her sapphire and diamond engagement ring, her tiaras, necklaces and bracelets, are estimated to be worth nearly £1m alone.

Her engagement ring, which cost £28,500 at the time of the engagement, would be expected to fetch £200,000 if it was placed at auction.

The Queen Mary tiara, a wedding gift from the Queen, is one of the most prized items in her collections, worth £471,000.

Other gifts include the Sapphire brooch from the Queen Mother, worth £350,000, and a multi-million sapphire pendant on a diamond necklace plus matching set, given by the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

And the Princess's wardrobe, even after the charity auction this year, would be worth £3.5m, it is estimated. She owned 95 gowns, 176 dresses, 178 suits and 54 coats, all designer-labels, and possessed some 350 pairs of shoes. Paintings and antiques which grace her flat in Kensington Palace could be worth as much as £500,000.

The Prince of Wales receives no money from the Civil List and relies on income from the Duchy of Cornwall - believed to be about £2.5m a year.

The Duchy of Cornwall's assets are in excess of £90m, but he cannot touch this capital because he holds it in trust for the future Prince of Wales. Similarly, the Queen holds the bulk of his wealth to be inherited on her death.

Rich in her own right, with £17m fortune



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The best fundraiser in the world

'There are few who work so devotedly for the well-being of the poor'

Imran Khan

Michael Streeter

She was probably the most successful fund-raiser on the planet, and charities yesterday said the loss of the Princess would leave an enormous hole in the world of voluntary organisations and campaigns.

A year ago, she severed links with all but six of the charities with which she was involved – a decision predicted by some to cost the losers a total of up to £300m – but still left her backing to many causes.

Although Diana made a massive contribution as a fund-raiser – the recent New York auction of her old dresses alone raised £3.5m for charity and a seat next to her could sell for \$100,000 – it was also her ability to raise the profile of issues such as Aids and landmines which impressed many observers.

The British Red Cross, one of those she officially "dropped" last July, said yesterday that the effect of her subsequent support for the campaign to outlaw the use of landmines, including visits to Angola and Bosnia, had been incalculable. "We had been working long and hard to raise public awareness. The impact she had was absolutely phenomenal," said a spokesman. "For many people she was the landmines campaign. She is irreplaceable in that respect."

He pointed out that her involvement had come at a crucial time with a new international treaty being negotiated and a change of government in Britain. Officials had held talks with the Princess about the prospect of her visiting another country, probably Cambodia, next year.

Meanwhile, her death caused



Diana visiting an Angolan minefield earlier this year. The Princess gave incalculable support to the campaign to ban landmines. Photograph: Reuters

George Foulkes, international development junior minister, to Partridge, chief executive of Terence Higgins Trust, said: "Diana took the stigma away from Aids. She was one of the first and most committed champions on this issue."

Much of the Princess's work underlined her obvious love of children. Television presenter Esther Rantzen, who founded the charity Childline, said: "She gave us personal donations when we started. She was in there right at the beginning. She met deprived children so often in private and she also made many public visits to promote our work to protect children."

Aids and HIV charities also claimed that the role of the Princess, who was patron of the National Aids Trust, had done much to help their work. Nick

Partridge, chief executive of the Terence Higgins Trust, said: "Diana took the stigma away from Aids. She was one of the first and most committed champions on this issue."

Much of the Princess's work underlined her obvious love of children. Television presenter Esther Rantzen, who founded the charity Childline, said: "This world has very few people like Diana who work so devotedly for the well-being of the poor, deprived and down-trodden people," he said.

He added: "There was hardly any non-Muslim who worked

Diana's death also caused distress internationally where she was a recognisable name, even in countries where Britain has little direct influence.

Imran Khan, the former Pakistani cricket hero and a friend of the Princess, who invited Diana to Pakistan two months ago to help an appeal for his charity cancer hospital, said: "This world has very few people like Diana who work so devotedly for the well-being of the poor, deprived and down-trodden people."

He added: "There was hardly any non-Muslim who worked

in a Muslim country with as much devotion and dedication as which Diana demonstrated for the sick and poor in Pakistan."

When the Princess made her surprise decision last year to sever formal links with most of her charities, including household names such as Help the Aged, Bernardos and Relate, it was predicted that if fund-raising alone it could cost them a total of £300m. Many, though, claim that through being force to work harder they have staved off any loss.

However, her undoubtedly fund-raising ability has been

shown on numerous occasions. A two-day trip to the United States in June last year raised more than £1m from a round of lunches and functions.

But Vicki Fulman, spokeswoman for the Charities Aid Foundation, which co-ordinates research in the sector, said the loss of Diana as a fund-raiser and personal donor was only part of the tragedy.

"In financial terms it is going to be significant. But she also raised awareness of issues, which is a large part of what charities do. She is going to be very deeply missed."

The six she cared for

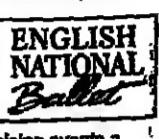
Charity:
Leprosy Mission.
Diana's Position:
Patron
How helped:

After being photographed with a sufferer in 1989, Diana was approached by the charity. Rev. Tony Lloyd, Executive Director, says: "Since April 90, she has supported us substantially, both directly through very substantial personal donations, and indirectly by raising our profile." In March she hosted a meal at Kensington Palace which raised £100,000.



Charity:
English National Ballet.
Diana's Position:
Patron
How helped:

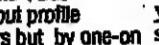
Patron since 1988, she has hosted up to 5 fund-raising events a year, typically raising £50,000 - £200,000 a time. Last December she is thought to have been behind agreement by Harrods to provide £150,000 sponsorship of this year's Nutcracker production. Jim Fletcher, spokesman, said: "She was very much involved with the running of the Company, and would frequently come to visit the members."



Centrepoint

Charity:
Centrepoint,
charity for the homeless.
Diana's Position:
Patron
How helped:

Charity said her impact on revenue "Unquantifiable". But spokeswoman Lisa Mangan, said: "Diana raised our profile immeasurably, not so much by public fund-raisers but by one-on-one visits."



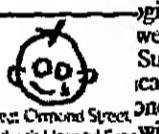
Charity:
National AIDS Trust.
Diana's Position:
Patron
How helped:

Has been a Friend of the Trust since 1987 and became Patron in 1991. Apart from raising profile/awareness, also lent name to series of Princess of Wales Concert of Hope events at Wembley arena. The most lucrative, in 1993, raised around £200,000 for distribution by the trust.



Charity:
Royal Marsden NHS Trust.
London, cancer hospital.
Diana's Position:
President
How helped:

A trip to the hospital was one of her first official engagements as a princess, and maintained keen, detailed interest in patients and research. A trip to Chicago last June raised \$500,000 for the hospital; the auction of her clothes for £3.5m in New York this year will benefit the hospital by more than £1m.



Charity:
Great Ormond Street Hospital,
London, children's hospital.
Diana's Position:
President
How helped:

Involved for more than ten years, she was best known for her official and private visits to wards, where she had the knack of seeking out the shyest children and "making their day", says officials. With Prince Charles she launched the Wishing Well appeal which raised more than £50million.

Michael Streeter and Louise Hancock

The final mission of the designer ambassador

Kim Sengupta

No one was to know it at the time, of course, but the trip three weeks ago to Bosnia was to be the last public visit abroad by Diana, Princess of Wales. The journey was to bring comfort to landmine victims, she said, but for the hundred journalists in attendance the only real interest was in her relationship with Dodi Fayed.

In retrospect one can perhaps say the trip was a vignette of the last chapter in the life of Diana, how her public duties became subsumed by tales from her private life, and her relationship with the media, sometimes acrimonious, but also in many ways mutually supportive.

It would be dangerous for the Princess's advisers to say they did not want the press in Bosnia. There was certainly no discouragement from her office, and the Foreign Office had to send a young diplomat from Belgrade to the ringmaster of the media circus.

After her highly successful visit to Angola with the Red Cross earlier this year Diana had expressed the wish to go to another area affected by mines. Bosnia was an obvious choice, but there were potential pitfalls. The wife of the wanted war criminal, Radovan Karadzic, was the head of the Bosnian-Serb branch of the Red Cross, and British troops had taken part in the shooting of another



The Princess with members of the UN force in Bosnia during her visit three weeks ago, part of her campaign against the use of landmines

Serb war crime suspect. Tension was high.

But the Princess did go to Bosnia, not with the Red Cross, but with an American-based charity, Survivors Network. And with the approval of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

Revelations came from her friendship with Dodi and the trip showed, as royal watchers would say, the two sides of Diana. One day she was outside the Park Lane home of Dodi; she was the glamorous member of the glitterati. The next day in Sarajevo, witnessing row after row of blasted streets, she was a sombre and thoughtful ambassador.

In many parts of Bosnia the Princess visited she simply was not known. When she went to the suburb of Bajakov Potek to meet 15-year-old Mirzeta Gabletic, who had lost a leg, the

locals looked bewildered. One young man said "Some Diana is moving in", another said "They have come to fix the water – and about time too".

There was similar misunderstanding when Diana arrived at the home of Mohammed Soljanić, who had lost both legs to a mine. It was his birthday and he had been told he would get two presents, a pair of prosthetic feet and a visit from a general in the peace-keeping force.

When the Princess arrived the Soljanić family did not know who she was. The neighbours too were bemused.

But the images were moving and the Princess was clearly emotional at meeting those who had suffered horrific injuries due to landmines. Above all to the victims it must have been a welcome signal they

they had not been forgotten.

Diana did not say anything to the media, either about Dodi or even about landmines. But there plenty of shots of her embracing the injured and their families were flashed across the world, making some photographers a lot of money.

Critics said she was manipulating the media. The Princess let it be known that some were determined to misinterpret her most well-intentioned actions.

Nothing she did would ever have been seen to be right to those jaded eyes.

But the first thing she did on the plane home was to go through newspapers with stories about herself and Dodi. That scene seemed to sum up the ultimate difficulty in separating the private and public life of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Treaty could be her memorial

Andrew Marshall

The Princess of Wales's work to end the global scourge of landmines may yield a lasting memorial: an international treaty banning their use.

Today, diplomats from more than 100 countries begin meeting in Oslo with the goal of ending the use of landmines throughout the world. By the end of the two-week conference, backer hope to have drafted a treaty on banning their production, sale or use.

Diana had thrown herself into the campaign against landmines, making trips earlier this

year to Bosnia and Angola to publicise the issue, and ran into a political row when she seemed to be working against government policy. Labour, once elected, took up the cause.

Her support for the campaign was one of its strongest assets. There are about 110 million anti-personnel mines scattered around the world, and it was the damage they caused – particularly to children, which moved the Princess to become involved with the issue. "Most of those you see injured by mines are children, killed by average people, like farmers," said Norway's deputy foreign min-

ister Jan Egeland in advance of the meeting.

The conference continues a series of meetings that began in Canada and are now called the "Ottawa Process". Those talks led to an anti-landmine declaration signed by 98 nations in Brussels in June. Three more countries, the United States, Australia and Poland, have since joined the process.

Norway's goal is a total ban, with no exception for types of mine, or geographical location. But there has been resistance. Some of the world's major powers, including Russia, India, China and Israel, will not be represented. The US is taking part with reservations. Although it has agreed to join the Ottawa process, it wants Korea excluded from the ban since it says mines are essential for the defence of South Korea.

The Princess's death is certain to be commemorated at the conference. The United Nations said yesterday that the world had lost an important ambassador. "It is a tragic loss. Her commitment and dedication to a ban on anti-personnel mines brought the issue home to millions around the world," said Fred Eckhard, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, said.

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ROYAL MINT

the leader page

Dia

The beauty who couldn't tame the beast

Created as an icon by press photographs, she lived in the fizzing glare of flashguns, and now she lies dead, a victim of the insatiable lens. Behind the lens stands an industry, an apparatus of buying and selling, proprietors, profits, and, somewhere down that feeding chain, the silent millions of readers who added so handsomely to sales figures whenever Di stories appeared, and who flocked to the news-stands to see the latest blurry colour picture. Earl Spencer, her brother, was bitter about it all; she was nurdled by the media, he said.

BWas she? Certainly it seemed at times that the relentless pursuit of her image had driven her almost demented living as the harried subject of professional voyeurism is a form of modern mental torture which no one who hasn't experienced it, at least a little, can fully understand. Yet at other times Diana clearly revelled in her role. Dodi Fayed the woman that half the world hide an anted to watch, hear and follow. She parazzi as not mere victim. She could be a Minutes new, even brilliant, exploiter of the private jaded, both for herself and her characters' causes; and it diminishes her to suggest just otherwise.

All that said, her death ought to start parazzi much-needed debate (which has to be on. But international rather than just national) about the structure and appetites of this just one global industry of images and words

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Ihe diseased
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illed Diana

5.30: I hope that I'm not alone in rapping both our outrage and shame at Hotel Diana's tragic death. Every single person who has chosen to read the news of Diana's intrusive, titillating, hamed/curious, soap-opera-isation of one of Diana's private life (and there can't sight anyone who hasn't) must bear photojournalism responsibility for the point-blanking circumstances of Diana's death.

ing the irony is almost unbearably 8pm that you're really got your ing out-of-a-lifetime now, boys. Yet

8pm circumstances of Diana's death are simply the chase: a real conclusion of this dangerous Chancery discourse to which we have gone contributed.

Just re for the details of celebrities' couplet lives can scarcely be dreamt tries t

en p' Diana's tragic death won't bikes about a sea-change in our with tides towards other people's in their lives, then I fear nothing and I

heads: RICHARD HOUSE
li, an rich
Conc

traffit is quite wrong to blame public slip, and for the press's pursuit and faste: ruction of Diana, Princess of the S's. "The public" is a mass of

Wi unmercifully manipulated in trade for goods of virtually no — such as the tabloid press.

I bought Di because the press — marketed — her. Marketing is what which does not wait on and: it creates it.

I sell to a mass market, the uid press needs to appeal to the universal of emotions in ways h are stereotyped and icable, but which have to ar new every day.

ince Diana was the best thing have ever had. The tabloids

— her into a commodity of mous value: an icon to love, beauty, success, hope, who was weak and vulnerable.

Chaney created the demand for Scier Diana and exploited it esily. They called the Frearazzi into being and they cess her.

houn't blame the public; they ha manipulated as much as she, suff the same commercial end.

A FROST
blow. Cumbria
fate

I have just watched a former he editor of a national news- justify the publication of the sae risu images which graced the E of newspapers across the tem last month. It is, apparently, Sal's editor's fault for publishing abo that he or she knows were seen illegal circumstances, but stolt of the public for buying the Japers which carry such ter's.

hlo great handwashing

ion has begun. As The getherer has shown, editors are gerry bound to satisfy the mo: a desire for "news" of "Dodi of us". The public is interested, anx unhealthily, but this is a last of press publicity. Editors are responsible, and the they have shirked it.

RAN BROOKS
from E11

no
he Royal Family, whether
sh accept it or not, has
a jewel in its crown.

DAVID VORKE
Uttexeter, Staffordshire

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va

which the public both adores and loathes. The media is omnipresent, and treated with the same mixture of enjoyment and dislike as other great powers. It was, of course, the reviled media to which people turned yesterday, unquestioningly, avid for the news.

Because of the circumstances of Diana's death, it will register as a calendar event, shocking in its suddenness.

The strength of people's feelings about her are not to be doubted or slighted.

"Although I am not a royalist..." How

many times, yesterday, people prefaced their response with this formula, distinguishing the place she held in national life from their views about the monarchy.

To many people, it is as if a light has gone out. This flawed woman stone — Tony Blair found the right word — reflecting back to us the intensity of our interest in her looks, her clothes, her loves, her charity, her modernity, her representativeness. This upper-class English girl, so narrowly formed and so unrepresentative in upbringing, became our common creation, our national possession. Her death will be sincerely mourned.

Yet if we weigh the institutional significance of the Princess's death, the balance is curiously empty. Of course her departure matters for the House of Windsor. But the monarchy is not about to dissolve or to be abolished.

The manner of her death raises a specific question about the harrying of superstars for their pictures. Few have ever been in Diana's league; the treatment of Hollywood stars may be bad, but they are in the image-selling business. "Paparazzi" — today's buzz-word



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Instead, it is the fourth estate that this death touches most closely — the news-producers, agents of the iconography of the modern world; and not just us, but you, the consumers of news, co-participants in this frenzied dance of public stars and audience-maximising media.

The manner of her death raises a specific question about the harrying of superstars for their pictures. Few have ever been in Diana's league; the treatment of Hollywood stars may be bad, but they are in the image-selling business. "Paparazzi" — today's buzz-word

— must not become too easy a herd of scapegoats. The photographers' relentless pursuit of the Princess occurred because there is a wide and rich international market for their work. It is hard to see how that could ever be regulated. In theory, agreement between proprietors might stick, but it is hard to see the American supermarket tabloids or *Oggi* ceasing to find good-telling royalty uninteresting.

Something practical might be done to make Britain a pursuit-free zone, either by making it easier for victims to obtain injunctions or by privacy legis-

lation. This newspaper has supported for some time the principle of a law guaranteeing privacy, noting the absurd disjunction between the scope of official privacy (ie, for government information and officials) and a free-for-all for the rest of the world, mitigated by harsh and anachronistic libel laws. Nothing in Diana's death alters the already strong case for action on this front.

By the same measure, much in her life illustrates the reciprocal nature of media relationships: press and broadcasters need willing and co-operative subjects. The Royal Family decided a generation ago that it would manage the media. Until the late Seventies, it did so relatively successfully. Its nervous and half-embarrassed handling of the eruption of the heir to the throne's birth into superstardom, was at best amateur. But there is no denying that the House of Windsor (mistakenly) chose to set out on the path that Diana subsequently followed deep into the jungle.

Of course, the media are not innocent carriers. Proprietors have agendas, editors have views of the world to propagate, reporters too often choose the lowest common denominator. But with the exception (to some extent) of the BBC, the media are commercial — we live and die by numbers. The public is well able to

demonstrate its tastes in its purchases. The market for newspapers may be oddly skewed in terms of ideology, but it remains an open market: the British public does have other reputable media to choose if they are dismayed with mass-circulation newspapers.

Perhaps Diana was simply a one-off, someone whose extraordinary life since marrying Charles forbids generalisations. She grew from gauche nanny to hardened and emotional superstar in a spectacular way which lured some media people, like some ordinary Diana-watching, into a kind of insanity. She lived, and now has died, in the midst of a love affair with the public, during which her powers of seduction grew ever greater — and were put to good causes. But she was sucked up by forces which, tide-like, came to overwhelm her. Like some heroine of old, she thought she could tame the beasts — and was wrong. Some accidents have a force that feels like Fate. The smash in a Paris tunnel was one. Diana, in whose life this paper was not greatly interested, enters a kind of pantheon, the princess-martyr, murdered by the media. A cult will follow. Things weren't quite like that. She was more complicated — and so is the media. But there is enough truth in the story for many — journalists and readers too — to hang their heads. The pursuit was a kind of madness. It was cruel, too.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Spanish lesson for the Scots

Sir: As a Spaniard who spends large periods in Britain, I think that Britain has plenty to learn from Spain on the dangers of devolution.

Spanish devolution was devised as a solution to the Catalan and Basque problems. It has aggravated them, and has created many other problems. Soaring nationalism everywhere in Spain, the climate of civil confrontation in the Basque provinces, ETA, linguistic discrimination in several regions, costly and corrupt regional governments, and too many and redundant administrations: these are the problems that devolution has either created or failed to ameliorate in Spain.

As regions are not significantly smaller than the whole nation, devolution does not actually make government appreciably closer to the people. Instead of devolution to regions, it would be much better to preserve the central government while giving more power to local councils and towns.

MIGUEL NAVARRO NAVARRO
London W6

Sir: As one born in Scotland of an English father and a Welsh mother I have no axe to grind, but why is there to be no referendum to see if the English would like independence from their Scottish and Welsh neighbours?

DAVID GERMANAY
Sevenoaks, Kent

Sir: Assuming that there is a "yes" vote on the referendums on Scottish and Welsh devolution, how soon can the English parliament vote to align our clocks with the rest of Europe without interference from Scottish and Welsh MPs?

R J MACY
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Sir: You report (28 August) that "One in six supermarket bills have the price wrong". For the past two years I have been regularly checking my till receipts and either returning to the store or writing to the manager when there has been an error (unfortunately never in my favour).

You are right to blame the speed at which items are scanned. Last month I learnt that the supermarket regularly ran a competition to see which cashier could scan the most items per minute. Small surprise that errors occur.

KAREN LOWTON
Chefsfield, Kent

Encouraging genetic research

Sir: It is wrong to claim that there is a hidden loophole in the proposed European biotechnology directive which would allow "new rights over human genes" (report, 27 August). There is already

legislation in place within the European Patent Convention which allows patenting of genes if they have been isolated from the body or produced by a technical process and if the normal criteria of patentability can be demonstrated.

Rather than prevent scientific research, as you suggest, the proposed directive will actually encourage it. The benefit of the patent system is that the inventor must publish sufficient detail to enable fellow researchers to undertake their own research.

The intention of the directive will be to harmonise legislation on patents across Europe. It will help British industry, which already leads Europe in the field of biotechnology, to earn a fair reward from its search for new medicines for many as yet unconquered diseases and bring hope to many millions of patients.

The directive has been discussed at length within six expert committees of the European Parliament, and more than 450 amendments have been debated for more than a year before the recent EU plenary vote — hardly a process in which clauses have been buried as you describe.

Professor TREVOR M JONES
Director-General
The Association of the British
Pharmaceutical Industry
London SW1

Cabinet kitchen

Sir: Enough of whingeing about the Blair's eating habits (Letters, 28 August). It is high time that we had a Tony and Cherie New Labour Cookery Book.

SIMON J SNIGG
London NW3

MI5's passion for secrecy

Sir: M15 (report, 28 August; Letters, 30 August) is not only uncontrolled and basically unsupervised, its secrecy borders on the absurd.

I tried for over a year to obtain from M15 its files on the ex-Communist anti-imperialist campaigner George Padmore, who died in 1959. The final word from M15 was that they could, by law, release any files they might have. However, as they were not obliged to do so, they would not.

The only explanation offered was that national security and agents might be jeopardised. The former is ridiculous. As for the latter, why not ink out the agents' names (if they are still alive), as is done, for example, in the USA?

MARIKA SHARWOOD
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Commonwealth Studies
University of London

Sir: France says it has privacy laws but no control over paparazzi. Britain says it has control but no privacy laws. So why doesn't Brussels stop concerning itself with pettifogging red tape and pass laws which would prevent another such tragedy?

MARY-ROSE GLIKSTEN
Windsor, Berkshire

Sir: A tribute worthy of Diana, Princess of Wales's service to the international community would be the banning of the manufacture and use of land mines. This would probably last far longer than any other memorial.

DAVID VORKE
Uttexeter, Staffordshire

talk of partnership ... We must embrace that offer and play our part in raising overall standards of education in this country."

If we do manage to construct a beneficial partnership, it will be no thanks to your distortion of the main part of my speech. I neither said nor implied that independent schools "hold the key to morality". I twice acknowledged that independent schools had no monopoly in this territory. Indeed,

I gave examples of areas — behaviour on the sports field, for example — where we have failed the high standards we set ourselves. I urged the Government to learn from good practice in "both maintained and independent schools".

I take particular exception to the implication that prep schools will not welcome the children of divorced parents. As a child of divorced parents myself, I feel well-qualified personally to draw attention to the life-long effects of divorce upon children — something all schools, not just prep schools, need to be aware of and compensate for.

My central concern, however, is one which I am sure exercises most of my colleagues in both independent and state schools. In a society where many moral and cultural norms are collapsing or being challenged, unreasonable expectations are being placed on schools. Education does not take place in a vacuum, and it is clearly not just a matter of measurable academic outcomes. Schools cannot but be concerned about the

effects on children of pervasive effects in the media or of the widespread disintegration of family stability.

Ways in which independent schools can compensate for these factors may be among the issues the new government would be well advised to study more closely.

Dr R JACHESON
Chairman
Incorporated Association of
Preparatory Schools
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire

Sir: Your leading article misses the point. State education has serious deficiencies. The 7 per cent of the population who do not use it consist of the wealthy and powerful decision-makers in our society. Are these two facts connected? If the influence of the 7 per cent could be brought to bear on the problems of state education for reasons of self-interest, would there be improvements?

The point is not to consider "abolition" of private education, but to unite it with the state system. Would not such a development have a beneficial effect on the crippling class system our country endures?

With the new, invigorating political atmosphere we are now very briefly enjoying, we have an unrepeatable opportunity to tackle this problem. Must it be missed?

PETER RAINHEY
Maidstone,
Kent

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

Snail mail

Sir: I was always under the impression that e-mail was fast. It's not.

Yesterday I e-mailed myself at home, about eight miles away from where I work, in central London. The e-mail arrived after the second post. If I'd posted the message it would have arrived earlier.

ANDY LEWIS
Lenton SW7

The Palace will not be able to cope with a Saint Diana



by Polly Toynbee

Where does the tragedy of Diana, Princess of Wales' death leave the monarchy? Constitutional experts were quick yesterday to say that it would make no difference, that it was an irrelevance. "Of no constitutional consequence whatever," said Lord Blake, echoed by others. Technically, of course, they are right. Constitutionally, she was nothing.

But Princess Diana's life as a royal changed everything for the monarchy. She made the personal political for them. The drama surrounding every twist and turn of her story, from her engagement to her divorce and her last romance, made the emotional a constitutional question. The Charles and Diana saga is the main explanation for the astonishing fall in the popularity of the monarchy. Why else did a recent Mori poll find that 55 per cent of the people now think the country would be better off or at least no worse off as a republic?

Her story is not over yet for the monarchy. Diana dead may threaten their stability and tranquillity as strongly, if not more so than the divorced Diana they could not silence. The world's most famous woman now enters the stratosphere of dead icons, from Princess Grace to Marilyn Monroe. More than either of those, in this celebrity-transfixed age where even Elvis has spawned a religion, the tributes flowing in suggest a mantle of modern sainthood falling upon her. "She was the people's princess and that is how she will be in our hearts and our memories forever," said an emotion-filled Prime Minister, setting that tone.

Diana the Difficult was a problem the palace could tackle but Saint Diana is something the palace can never contend with. There can be no more palace

briefings and malevolent whisperings against her now. No more highly placed sources telling key opinion-formers that she is actually certifiably mad. She will no longer provide opportunities for them to mock her when she poses for fashion magazine front covers and then in the next breath begs the press to leave her alone. There will be no more occasions to pour scorn on her good works, no more private sneers about her selling frocks whose true value was their titillating physical intimacy with her body. She will give no embarrassing interviews, offer the palace no more chances to say that she has broken royal protocol.

If her palace enemies hoped that as she got older she would have presented the world with an increasingly absurd and pathetic spectacle in her search for self-knowledge and love, both personal and public, then their hopes have been dashed. She will stay forever young and forever genuinely

Her star will shine more brightly in the beyond where all is forgiven

tragic. And they, her abusers and traducers, will go down in the Cult of Goddess Diana as the villains. Instead, her star will shine ever more brightly in the beyond where all is forgiven. Her faults, absurdities, confusions will all be forgotten in the overwhelmingly horrible calamity of her death. At last, she will be a pitiable "queen of the people's hearts" – that much-satirised phrase gaining poignancy with every passing year.

How can Prince Charles contend with that? The sorry spectacle of him at the funeral with his sons will summon up a thousand conflicting emotions, including a measure of outrage. Perhaps the mood of the royal fans will be forgiving. Perhaps they will take pity on him in all his contorted awkwardness, so ill at ease with everything in his life. Perhaps they will forgive Camilla, whom Diana fingered so firmly as the destroyer of

her marriage. Maybe they will want Charles at last to find happiness, and the disappearance of the troublesome Diana will allow the royals to return to the safe, dull, tweedy Balmoral spirit of long ago. But perhaps not. He may become the demon king for worshippers of the Cult of the Goddess Diana. What if they kiss and turn away from him at public events, blaming him, hating him? How much of that could he stand?

Far worse, what if his sons blame him? It won't be long now before Prince William surfaces in his own right with "close friends", hangers-on and biographers to offer hints as to his state of mind. As we watch the face of that poor child at his mother's funeral, how can we begin to imagine his thoughts? Which of his difficult parents does he blame most? It would be hard

to design a background and an upbringing as catastrophic as his has been, all his parents' affairs blazoned in grizzly detail across the press, from the Tampon to the James Hewitt humiliations. If he has survived all that, it will be something of a miracle.

Any psychologist might hazard the fear that this young boy's life risks continuing his dysfunctional family tradition, a damaging cycle of emotional deprivation at the top of society as predictable as any chronicled by social researchers among those at the bottom.

The one thing we do know is that he has a deep and well-founded hatred of the press. Now they have killed his mother, how is he to find some tolerable *modus vivendi* with them? For to be a successful heir and king is to know how to manage the media.

Does any of this matter? Does it threaten the monarchy? There is no republican political project anywhere worth the name. Labour has even postponed reforming the Lords, and Blair and his people are closer to and more effusive about the royals than any prime minister in recent history. Constitutionally, the monarchy is a non-issue.

And yet Diana's arrival and tragic departure from the royal scene may mark a trajectory that has nothing to do with politics and politicians. The erosion of public support may be met by a radical loss of self-confidence within the royal family itself. Can Charles take the strain? Diana was probably not inventing it when she maliciously suggested in her *Panorama* interview that he might not become king. But we know nothing of Prince William if he were to

take the crown. All we can know is that the odds are being more strongly stacked against him being a more solid, balanced, self-sacrificing person than his parents. Could he really become more able than them to bear the almost intolerable life expected of a king in this media-driven age? Further erosion and implosion of the monarchy is more likely.

Whatever becomes of this stricken family, there, in the firmament above them will hover the problematical image of a woman whose power will not dim. Her story will be used and abused in a thousand ways, twisted and exaggerated, a constant weapon in the hands of enemies of Charles or Camilla. If some day the monarchy finally draws peacefully to a close, Diana's ghostly spirit will have played its part.

Photograph: Snowdon



Charles and Diana with their children: what if his sons blame him for what happened to their mother?

Nobody knew where to put the flowers

Yesterday saw the nation casting around for new rituals to replace the old religious mechanisms for coping with grief



by Paul Vallely

profoundly personal about most responses. John Major luminously spoke of Diana as "an imperishable icon". Tony Blair, Nelson Mandela and Bill Clinton were all clearly deeply moved by the death of this young woman.

For Diana was to the nation, it became clear, not a royal figurehead but a real person. "We all felt we had a psychic relationship with her," said the Queen's biographer Ben Pimlott. It was not just the recognisably modern world of baseball caps and leggings into which she had dragged the tweedy royals. Here was a warm woman who had appealed to people in need, took their hands and looked into their eyes. Though she had been denied comfort herself, she wanted to comfort others. She reached out from her vulnerability to others in pain, and made her vulnerability her strength, said the Archbishop of Canterbury. "She did everything from the heart," said her friend Rosa Monckton. "Her heart ruled her head, which is why I think, she was so often misunderstood."

It is also why she was so readily, and often uncritically, loved – as was shown by the messages which members of the public left on flowers by royal residences. "Born a lady, became a princess, died a saint," said one. "The nation has thrown

away a jewel more precious than its whole empire," said another.

But perhaps hyperbole is only a sign that in these situations words are not enough. When the Royal Family arrived in a convoy of black cars at Crathie Church near Balmoral, some commentators spoke of them pulling together and putting on a brave face. That was wrong. What they did was not a duty so much as a refuge. At times of crisis, when emotions are raw and words are empty, there is consolation in ritual and solace in the repetition of the familiar words of the prayer: "Remember all those who, at this time, need to know your presence, all those whose lives are marked by tragedy and grief who need to know more than human comfort and friendship. We pray for our Queen and her family, and for the Prince of Wales and Princes William and Harry. May they be aware of your love. May they be sure of your love."

In our secular age, most people have lost their conscious understanding of this. Religion is a thing of the past. But the instinct remains. In part, the formula of media questions and answering tributes is a new such ritual. So is the urge by the public to find a tangible way of expressing their grief by turning up at a royal residence even if nobody is there. They need somewhere to go and any site will do.

So there were carpets of flowers laid at Diana's official residence, Kensington Palace, at the Prince of Wales's home at Highgrove, at Balmoral and at Holyroodhouse, as well as at the Spencer ancestral home, Althorp House in Northamptonshire. And people were not content to go when the flowers had been laid, but silently stood, in their hundreds, staring dumbly for hours on end.

Some eyebrows were raised pedantically over the playing of the national anthem, since Diana was not strictly speaking royal. But that ritual too – over shots of the Union flag fluttering defiantly at half-mast, or over a photograph of the Princess simply captioned with the dates 1961-1997



President Clinton seemed genuinely moved: 'Let us respect the moment'

– spoke more eloquently than did photographs of the black Mercedes with its roof caved in near the Eiffel tower.

Yet there was a terrible ambivalence about it all. The female presenter on GMTV at 8am looked drawn and gently tear-stained, yet over the news the station showed fuzzy, snatched long-lens shots of Dodi and Diana in a speedboat – the kind of photographs that caused the Princess so much pain in her life.

We should not pass judgement. We all consumed her: Diana craved our love as a self-validation; some of the public gave it,

others of us merely showed mocking glee when she was caught by photographers visiting a psychic in a helicopter. Only when something goes wrong does the British public become ashamed of its prurience and a collective feeling of shame ensue.

The ritual continues. After the shock comes the anger. "I would say that I always believed the press would kill her in the end," Charles Spencer told reporters gathered outside his home in South Africa. "But not even I could imagine that they would take such a direct hand in her death as seems to be the case ... It would appear that every proprietor and every editor of any publication that has paid for intrusive and exploitative photographs of her, encouraging greedy and ruthless individuals to risk everything in pursuit of Diana's image, has blood on his hands today."

He was not alone. Some photographers were forced to leave Kensington Palace yesterday because of public hostility. At Balmoral, one mourner shouted to reporters: "You as good as killed that poor woman. I hope you are proud of yourselves." And when journalists accompanying Prince Charles arrived at the hospital in Paris where the Princess died, patients and hospital staff jeered and shouted "murderers".

Next will come the row over press and privacy. It will come to nothing. France has among the strongest privacy laws in the world, but Diana was a globalised commodity. It is said that the paparazzo who got the first Dodi and Diana pic made £3m from it. The market rules. The politicians know that. But they know that yesterday was not the day to acknowledge it. Bill Clinton accepted as much when questioned on the need for tougher privacy laws. "I think it is better right now if we let a little time pass," he said, "let this event and the people involved be honoured and grieved. Let us respect the moment." On days such as yesterday, that is all anyone can do.

A magic mix of star and healer



by David Aaronovitch

"**T**he whole nation," said any body who was asked the question on television or radio yesterday, "is in mourning." We were all, said Mr Blair, experiencing a grief that "was deeply painful for us".

But why? Most government MPs with their capacity to influence legislation – have more constitutional importance than Princess Diana; and certainly a minister exerts greater power over our lives. Diana was not a JFK, let alone Nelson Mandela or a Gandhi – an exceptional person whose sacrifice, bravery and vision can shape continents. She wrote poetry, novels or plays, starred in great movies, saved no lives through her scientific discoveries, never risked her life to save others. She was the divorced wife of the ageing heir to the throne of a almost purely ceremonial and increasingly discredited monarchy, and the mother of the heir's probable heir. In a cold sense she was simply the Duchess of York with knobs on.

I have always looked at the monarch and its relationship with the nation with the eye of an untrained anthropologist. When my eight-year-old friends were saluting the flag in the Church every Sunday, I was out with my little placard demonstrating, on behalf of imprisoned Greek leftists, or to show solidarity with Civil Rights in America. So I can understand the emotional attachment such, without actually sharing the particular reverence for the HRHs a HMs, a reverence that seemed – via the BBC and the press – to bind the Brits together. Coronation, Jubilee, Royal Wedding, a combination of ceremony that made it never seem far-fetched to me that there is, apparently, a tribe of he-hunters on a Melanesian island who revere the Duke of Edinburgh as a god.

With the tide of religious faith withdrawn, people desired a common experience, a group of individuals with whom one could – very loosely – identify, a set of characteristics which help to define the collective, a shared national conversation, a collection of taboos and restraints, a permanence that defined the shocks of war and catastrophe. And even now the tug is there: the Great Haseley horticultural show yesterday, deep inside the large, domed marquee. I saw that the second and third prizes for the 50th wedding anniversary flower display had gone to compositions featuring the Queen and Prince Philip, their faces appearing through the blossoms like images within an oriental temple.

But this was almost certainly the wish of old people. The monarchy itself is too snooty, too dim, too stiff and unattractive to survive scrutiny in the sate age. What saved it as a source of interest and discourse was Diana who – in – became a combination film star, faith healer, the magic mix of flesh and spirit. "She had this extraordinary Catholicism," said the Catholic Lord St John of Fawsley yesterday. "She could reach out to touch people spiritually and physically. She could do this because she had "feminized", in ways which many women could easily identify with, and because she – at the same time – wonderfully beautiful. If she had had the face of Princess Anne, no magical powers would have been adduced to her."

She also embodied the tradition of "The Holy Fool", the innocent who wanted the world to be simple and good, who wished to be the "Queen of Heaven". The only times affection for her was shown, was in those moments when she was suspected of scheming calculation. Otherwise, her reputation grew as a global therapist. Listen to these words the Prime Minister yesterday described those who would miss the Princess: "most would be the sick, the dying, the children and the needy". This is a veritable apocrypha in words, a woman who was fast becoming a kind of Lourdes on legs.

Her early death ensures a re-enactment of this semi-religious mythology. Not have Diana the martyr, those clean-looking down from that sympathetic sad but smiling face. She, who died our sins, because we had to buy the papers that printed the photograph taken by the professionals – made by greed – who eventually killed her, therefore crucified her, with our appetite for celebrity. And, however much we attempt to read paparazzi Pharisae, we know that she is really fault that she died. It will not be her and I say this in no spirit of levity – but before some start to claim that she is not dead at all.

And then there is that other myth, just about to be born: that of the Two Sad Princes, now motherless, updated versions of the Prince and the Tower. Will we now do to them what we did to her? Or rather, will you? I have other Gods.

At her best not with baubles but dressed down like a modern woman

The style

Tamsin Blanchard
Fashion Editor

When British *Vogue* featured the Princess of Wales on the cover of the magazine in July 1994, who could resist the black and white portrait by Patrick Demarchelier and the simple cover line: "Happy Birthday The Princess of Wales. New Portrait".

Here was Diana, aged 33, with the sad but smiling eyes, with the beginnings of a few crow's feet.

Other celebrities would have insisted that every line or crease was retouched to a smooth glow.

But not Diana. That was the essence of her style.

She was a woman at the pinnacle of beauty and glamour, a *Vogue* cover girl, yet every woman could relate to those small wrinkles. She was not super-humanly perfect. She always looked real and approachable.

Diana's style was a natural one. She was just as at home in a couture ball gown at a state ceremony as she was in her gym kit, or with windswept hair and bullet-proof waistcoat on the minefields of Angola. Her style evolved slowly from the days of her engagement to be married when she wore the frumpy pie-crust frills of a teenage Sloane Ranger. The Emanuel wedding dress was that of a fairytale princess and was the start of one of many close relationships with British designers.

That was also the point at which she inspired other women to dress like her. The style of that wedding dress, give or take a few metres off the train, was imitated by brides across the world. Over the years, women have copied the Diana hair, slicking it back when she slicked hers and hiding under their fringes when she did the same. One particular hairstyle in February 1995 dominated every tabloid front page. The papers didn't like it. The style was not feminine enough. But women rushed out to buy a tube of hairslick to try it for themselves.

Unlike Jackie Onassis, who led trends and was at the forefront of fashion in the Sixties, Diana was a staunch classicist. She stuck to her own wide-shouldered suits, the sapphire and diamond earrings, the evening frocks that often made her look old before her time, and the matching shoes and bag. Even her make-up – the slightly smudgy eyeliner and the natural lips – remained the same throughout the years.

She was not a woman at fashion's cutting edge as her recent charity sale of eighty dresses at Christie's in New York highlighted. Some of the dresses were ruched and gathered to the point of monstrosity. Others, like one embroidered ballerina dress, were simply cut to an unfattering length.

However, unfortunate as the style of dress was, it was the woman beneath the drapes and ruching that always shone through. She was the sort of woman who could have worn a sack and still looked fabulous. No wonder designers fantasised about dressing Di. She had everything – the height, the even features, the legs and those well-toned, statuesque shoulders worthy of any supermodel.

As well as supporting British designers such as Elizabeth Emanuel, Zandra Rhodes, Bruce Oldfield and Catherine Walker, Diana was also courted by designers including the late Gianni Versace whose memorial service she attended in July, and by Bernard Arnault, the owner of luxury goods conglomerate LVMH.

It was he who persuaded the Princess to wear the first-ever dress for Christian Dior by John Galliano last December. No other woman had the power to generate so many front pages across the world for the sake of one navy dress. She could not do anything to her appearance without com-

ment from the newspapers. She was every designer's dream.

"Perhaps one day she'll come to me," Vivienne Westwood told *Woman and Home* magazine in 1995. "You'd see some results. I could make her the most stylish woman in the world." Westwood had criticised the Princess for being "ruled by trends". She said: "It's as though her clothes are supposed to tell you she's both a feminist and sexy at the same time. It's a compromise – and it doesn't work."

It was precisely the fact that she was a woman trying to control her own life, acknowledging her position as a role model to other women, whilst not being afraid to wear a one-shoulder dress or a skirt split high up the thigh that made Diana so alluring. Nobody was pulling her strings either in her choice of dress or the way she chose to lead her life.

Beyond her strong physique was her own personality that no amount of money or plastic surgery could buy. Tall, slim, and graceful, she could carry off whatever she wore. She also knew how to be photographed. From the early days when she could barely lift her kindergarten teacher chin high enough for cameras to see her face, she became as skilled as a movie star or fashion model at loving the camera lens and making it love her.

As well as two covers for British *Vogue* – both in aid of promoting charities – and one for American *Vogue* when the journalist Georgina Howell followed Diana on a Red Cross trip to Kathmandu, and another for *Harper's Bazaar*, Diana's most recent cover was for *Vanity Fair* in July.

The photographs showed a woman relaxed, warm and at ease with the camera, laughing flirtatiously with the fashion photographer Mario Testino. And as usual, Diana was using her style and her image, not only as the mother of the future King of England and tireless charity worker, but that of Diana as fashion and lifestyle celebrity, to promote the sale of her dresses at Christie's.

She was only too aware of the power of a set of portraits. Proceeds of the non-profit making sale went to Aids Crisis Trust, The Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund and other related charities in America.

Diana's style was at its best when, such as those *Vanity Fair* pictures, she was at her most relaxed, natural and dressed down. She suited nothing better than a pair of jeans and crisp man's white shirt. How thoroughly modern of her to own around thirty pairs of jeans – Rif-Ozbek, Armani and Versace as well as good old traditional Levi's – with the labels on the waistbands.

The key to her style was not baubles, spangles or big frocks. It was the pared-down style of the modern career woman at mother of two that made her stand out. Hers was the sort of clothes that every woman could relate to – and in fact wear in day-to-day life.

Days out with her son would be spent in a sweatshirt, jeans and baseball cap. One of the most striking images of Diana in her acrobatics gear route from the gym shorts and a sweatshirt.

The most recent picture of Diana on holiday showed a tanned woman in a vest and jeans shorts or with her hair pushed into a baseball cap. Like everyone, she could hide a bad hair day and hide it under a cap.

Diana's true style only began to come into own over the past four years, since the separation from Charles. She asserted her independence by moving away from frills and flounces and a cleaner, sharper more contemporary way of dressing.

However, it is the woman within, rather than the clothes she wore, that will always stand through.



1995: Arriving at the Serpentine Gallery, London, in shoulder cocktail dress by Christina Stambolian for a dinner given by *Vanity Fair* magazine on the evening the Prince of Wales gave a personal television interview to his biographer Jonathan Dimbleby



1997: Outside her gym in Earls Court, west London, in sweatshirt and Lycra shorts



1997: In white one-shouldered evening dress by Versace; shot by Mario Testino for July *Vanity Fair*

of Diana on holiday showed a tanned woman in a vest and jeans shorts or with her hair pushed into a baseball cap. Like everyone, she could hide a bad hair day and hide it under a cap.

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Ad watchdog washes its hands of Demon Eyes

Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

The Advertising Standards Authority looks set to wash its hands of controversial political advertising such as the Conservatives' "demon eyes" poster attack on Tony Blair.

The Committee on Advertising Practice (CAP), which sets the rules by which the Advertising Standards Authority polices advertising campaigns, is considering a plan to label political adverts "propa-

ganda out of the bounds of regulation".

At present political advertising is covered by the ASA for matters of taste and decency and the privacy of individuals. But they are not bound to the same rules of honesty and truthful presentation as commercial advertisers.

The CAP is unhappy with this "half-way house" arrangement because it feels political advertising is discrediting the reputation of advertising as a whole. It is considering whether to

include political parties in all of its regulations or consider it as pure propaganda bound by no rules.

Insiders believe it is unlikely the committee will take the regulatory option because it does not want to take responsibility for judging whether a political party is telling the truth.

"We are an unselected body and have no desire to become involved in the democratic process," said Caroline Crawford, a director of the ASA. "Can you imagine the situation

if during the course of an election we are asked to adjudicate on an advertisement on a matter of truthfulness. Say it takes a week for us to judge on it and in the meantime the party making the false claim wins the election. Are we then to rule that they lied their way into power?"

Last year the ASA ruled against the "demon eyes" press ad created by M & C Saatchi after it received 130 complaints from Labour Party members and church groups. It was able to censure the ad under its pri-

er to garner publicity and cast a shadow over an advert rather than because they honestly expected the poster to be banned.

All the major political parties are being consulted about a change in the regulations, but the last time they were consulted, in 1992, the ASA was unable to get them to reach a consensus. The review of political advertising regulations is being accompanied by a review of the rules covering the use of members of the Royal Family without their permission.



Seeing red: The Tories' controversial election poster

Families angry at Saudi 'sentence'

Ian Burrell

The families of two British nurses facing possible execution in Saudi Arabia have reacted angrily to a frenzy of speculation yesterday that one of the women had been convicted and faced being beheaded.

Reports, quoting unnamed sources in Dubai, claimed that Deborah Parry, 38, who was born in Nottingham, had been given the death sentence for the murder of her Australian colleague Yvonne Gilford.

Associated Press claimed that Lucille McLaughlin, 31, from Dundee, had been cleared of murder but found guilty of being an accessory to murder.

The Foreign Office moved quickly to say that it had "no information" that any such decisions had been made.

Relatives of both Gilford and the British nurses also expressed bewilderment.

Frank Gilford, the brother of the dead nurse, who has suggested that he would seek the death penalty if the British nurses were found guilty, described the reported development as a "non-event".

He said: "I have still not heard anything from Saudi Arabia. I have no confirmation on any of the stories floating around the countryside."

The British families were clearly upset by the rumours. Jack Irvine, a spokesman for the families, said: "It is clearly very, very distressing to the relatives."

"If you were the parent or relative of someone in a Saudi jail and they were possibly about to be beheaded wouldn't you be distressed?"

"We have been getting this every weekend for the last three weeks. The same story. When it is checked out it appears to be untrue."

The Foreign Office said that, as far as it was aware, no decision had been made.

"Our situation is that we have also made inquiries and the senior officials to whom we spoke said that they had no information on a judgment being issued or a verdict and sentence handed out," said a spokesman.

Officials said they did not believe that information was being withheld from the British authorities.

"But their judiciary is independent of the government so we are not to know the ramifications any more than we would know [the private deliberations] of the higher courts in this country," he added. "We would expect that the first people to be told would



Frank Gilford has rubbished reports that one of the nurses charged with murdering his sister has been sentenced to death. Photograph: Matt Turner

be the lawyers on both sides."

It has been confirmed that papers from the case were submitted to a higher court in Riyadh last Saturday [August 23]. [and] did not give a judgment of any kind."

Mr Hejailian said the documents submitted dealt with issues such as the nurses' alleged confessions and the Gilford family's insistence on the death

penalty, and the higher court would now review the evidence and determine the credibility of the confessions.

The Dubai-sourced reports claimed that a three-judge panel had issued its verdict on 17 August, but had not released it publicly. An appeals court in Riyadh is reviewing the case as

part of a mandatory appeals process that could last months or even years, it was claimed.

Verdicts issued by Saudi courts are not always immediately released publicly and court hearings are closed to reporters.

The Australian nurse was found murdered in December

in her room at the King Fahd medical complex in the Saudi city of Dharan. She had been stabbed, bludgeoned and suffocated.

Ms Parry and Ms McLaughlin say they are innocent of the murder and have withdrawn their confessions which they say were made under duress.

Under the new Official Secrets Act any person who is or has been a member of the security and intelligence services "is guilty of an offence if with or without authority he discloses any information ... which is or has been in his possession by virtue of his position as a member of any of those services".

In the case of a newspaper publishing that information the disclosure has to be damaging and it has to be published "knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that it would be damaging". As the dispute between Mr Campbell and M Holborow shows, "damage means different things to different people, but the High Court judge sided with the Government on Saturday night".

"I think the central problem is with our entry clearance officers and their training and culture. I hesitate to say there is a racist culture but it is hard to avoid that conclusion," said one MP who did not want to be named. "It's almost as if they are sifting cases by knocking them back and saying the genuine ones will reapply."

Trees to clean up wasteland

Poison-eating trees are being developed to help clean up Britain's industrial wasteland blighted by toxic pollutants.

Some of the first sites planned for "bio-remediation" are currently so toxic that no one entering them has to wear a full protective suit, face mask and breathing equipment.

Under the "green-tech" project the trees are to be used absorb from the soil pollutants like lead, cadmium, mercury, zinc and boron. The trees would then be felled to enable the land to be utilised. Pines, willow, poplar and alder have already been planted in Black Country to identify most effective species.

The "clean-earth" project was launched by the Wolverhampton-based National Forest Forestry Unit, which has picked three sites near the M6 motorway, in the heavy industrial belt for mass planting as part of Black Country Urban Forest (BCUF), a £10m Millennium programme to improve the quality of life in the West Midlands. Two million trees will be planted in the UK's most ambitious "greening" programme.

Ministers faced with immigration appeals crisis

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

A flood of complaints about immigration cases is reaching some Labour MPs, largely prompted by hopes that the Blair Government will be more sympathetic than the Tories, ministers have been warned.

Some Labour MPs have told ministers that they have been besieged by constituents whose relatives have been refused en-

try to Britain, in the hope of receiving help.

However, several Labour MPs have told *The Independent* that the number of refusals has gone up. Some believe British officials abroad are overcompensating for Labour's abolition of the "primary purpose" rule which was designed to stop couples marrying solely for the purpose of settling in Britain.

It has also been suggested that the problem might be the fall-

out from a major drive, just before the general election, to deal with a backlog of immigration cases. All agree that new MPs' inexperience may have exacerbated the backlog, with letters going to the wrong departments and having to be forwarded.

The Foreign Office minister, Baroness Symons, has been forced to write to all MPs about the crisis. She also plans a fact-finding trip to Islamabad, where a computer failure has been

causing delays for months, and to New Delhi.

The unit which deals with MPs' representations on visa refusals has 1,000 new cases in June, compared with the usual average for the month of 550. Last year its staff dealt with 7,572 cases - 631 per month - but they have seen 1,500 this August.

The Foreign Office, which is responsible for visa applications made overseas, says there

has been no significant increase in either the number of applications or the proportion of refusals. Its officials believe the backlog has been caused by relatives in this country making new appeals on old cases, in the hope that Labour will be more sympathetic than the Tories.

Baroness Symons told *The Independent* in her letter that she planned to give "careful thought" to a number of problems and to write again spelling out her

plans to tackle them in the medium and long term.

She told *The Independent*: "We are continuing to monitor daily the performance of our correspondence unit and are working urgently to improve matters."

However, some experienced Labour MPs are angry about the way the issue is being handled. One said he had spoken to a minister who had complained he could not cross the Lobby of

Fill her up – with a few gallons of fresh air

Kate Watson-Smyth

It may look little old-fashioned, but this Citroen 2CV is in fact one of the most modern vehicles of the 20th century. The electronic car is a specially adapted vehicle which can be charged up by the wind.

It is currently touring Cornwall in what is believed to be the first practical demonstration in the country of pollution-free motoring.

The Engel-Burger family (right), from Germany, which owns the car and has come to Britain on a touring holiday, wanted to demonstrate how to travel by car without damaging the environment.

Powered by nine batteries, they drove to Delabole wind farm, Cornwall, to charge the car overnight from one of the 10,000 turbines before travelling up to 60 miles a day, visiting places of interest in Cornwall.

The Delabole wind farm, which was the first in the country, came on-line in 1991 and now produces 10 million kWh per year.

Peter Edwards, managing director of Windelectric, the operator of the farm, said: "Our turbines are small by

modern standards. The newest, being installed on the continent, are 1.5MW, nearly four times as powerful.

"With turbines constructed alongside German autobahns, wind turbines could become an increasingly common sight as we find a solution to emission-free motoring."

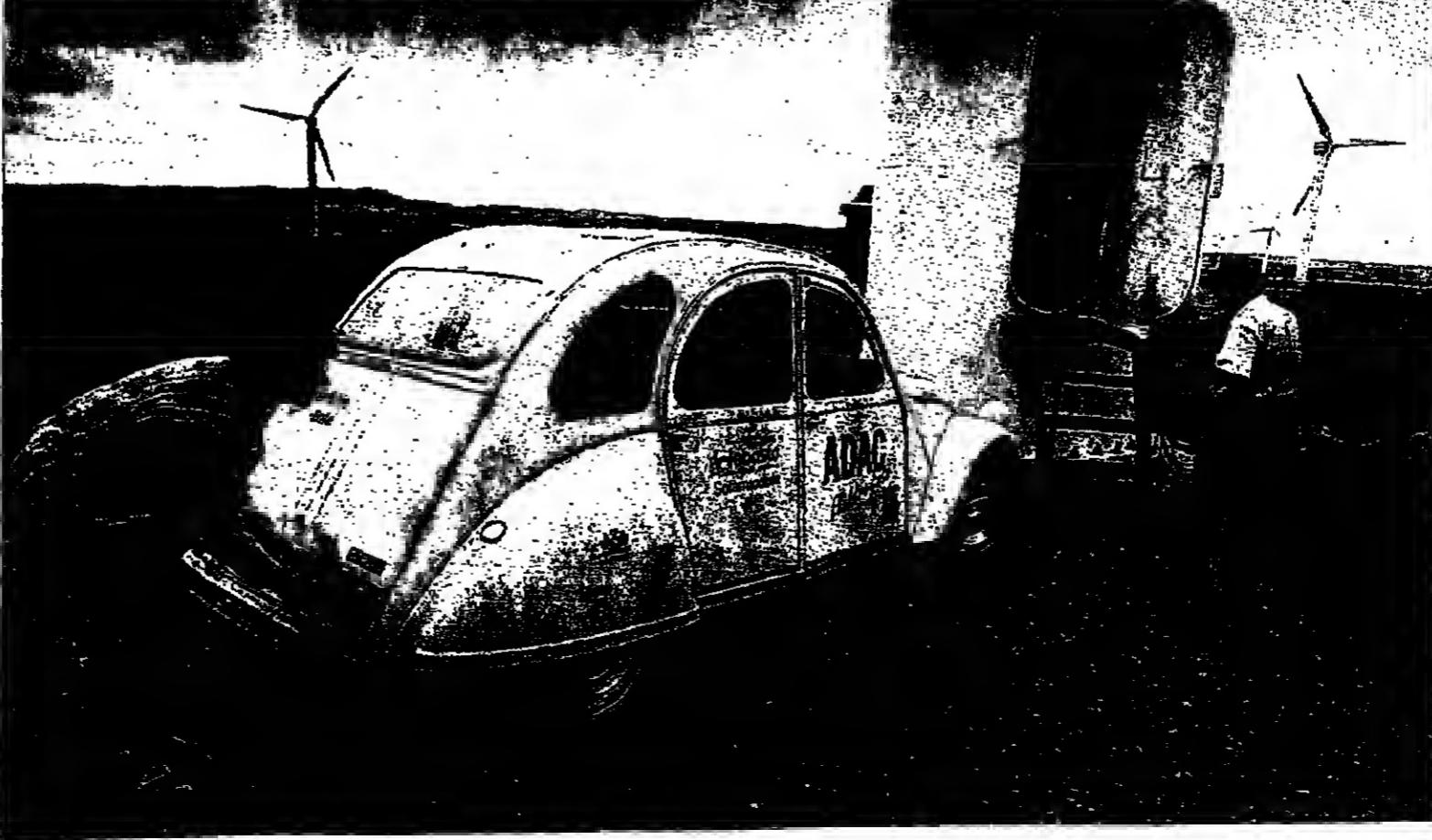
Nick Goodall, chief executive of the British Wind Energy Association, said: "With the UK the windiest country in Europe, the prospect of being able to enjoy the car without the guilt of pollution is looking very good."

"However, if we don't see planning consent granted for wind farms, the prospects for zero emissions will take a giant step backwards."

There are about 40 wind farms in Britain, most of which are in relatively remote areas.

However, despite the claims that wind power is the most environmentally friendly way to produce energy, many environmentalists have complained that the sight of ugly turbines across the horizon is equally damaging to the landscape.

Photograph: Paul Stalter



international

West turns up heat on Serb hardliners

Andrew Marshall
and agencies

The West has increased the pressure on Bosnian Serb hardliners over the weekend, following clashes last week with NATO troops.

On Saturday, the United States special envoy, Robert Gelbard, accused hard-line supporters of wartime leader Radovan Karadzic of instigating the violence, and criticised them for using women and chil-

dren as shields for rock-throwing demonstrators.

Mr Gelbard, on a one-day visit to shore up the crumbling Dayton peace accords and stem mounting violence that has included attacks on US soldiers, gave measured support to the more moderate Bosnian Serb leader, Biljana Plavšić, but beamed scorn on her hardline rivals. He said the backers of the indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic had impoverished the Bosnian Serb people, whose

economy was wrecked during the 43-month-long Bosnian civil war.

"I warned him in the most serious terms that there is a need right now to change his behaviour," Mr Gelbard said after he met Momcilo Krajisnik, a top Karadzic aide. "The consequences will be the most serious imaginable," he added.

Mr Krajisnik hit back at Mr Gelbard. "We took Gelbard's message very seriously, but we don't accept threats," he said.

The Bosnian Serbs' embattled President Plavšić met the US administrator of Brčko, where intra-Serb tensions sparked attacks against US peacekeeping troops three days ago. After speaking with the administrator, Robert Farrand, for two hours, Mrs Plavšić condemned her hard-line rivals for "putting women and children in the front line ... which is beyond every moral norm".

Mrs Plavšić controls the western section of Serbian territory in Bosnia from her base in Banja Luka, while Mr Karadzic controls the east from Pale, near the capital, Sarajevo. The peace force and other international representatives in Bosnia have sided increasingly with Mrs Plavšić.

Clashes erupted in Brčko after US soldiers serving with the NATO peace mission moved to maintain order after learning that Mrs Plavšić's forces were planning to seize police stations and media outlets controlled by

rivals. Mr Farrand criticised local radio in Brčko for instigating Thursday's violence.

The North Atlantic Council, NATO's policymaking body, said on Saturday that NATO-led troops in Bosnia "would not tolerate the use of force or intimidation" and promised to shut down any media inciting violence. The council met in special session late on Saturday to consider the developing situation in the Serb part of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana said that allied peacekeeping troops would use force, if needed, to shut down Bosnian Serb media outlets that urge violence against peacekeepers.

President Plavšić warned that the hardliners would face punishment when the power struggle in Bosnian Serb territory was over. "Their biggest punishment would be their conscience, if they had one," she said during a television programme on Sat-

urday night. "Since they do not have one, they will be punished once all this over."

The West, together with Mrs Plavšić, have been gradually wresting power from the hardliners in the west of the republic, including putting Plavšić loyalists in charge of police stations. They also have been taking control of the state-run television network, which previously broadcast only news programmes put together by the hardline-run studios in Pale.

Muslim leader urges Algeria truce

Paris (Reuters) — The leader of Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front has called for an immediate halt to the bloodshed in the North African country as preliminary step towards dialogue with the authorities.

In a brief letter to the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Abassi Madani said: "In respect to your appeal on Algerians for dialogue and reconciliation ... I am ready to call for an immediate halt to bloodshed."

Between 100 and 300 people were killed overnight on Thursday and Friday in the worst of a series of massacres of civilians in recent weeks. The authorities have blamed Muslim rebels for the atrocity.

About 60,000 people have been killed since January 1992, when the authorities scrapped a general election dominated by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Mr Madani, who is in the Algerian capital Algiers, said his appeal would be "a preliminary step for a serious dialogue ... to find a happy end to the crisis".

The letter, written in classical Arabic, was signed by his son, Abbas Salman, in the name of his father. It had no FIS stamp and could not immediately be authenticated.

The FIS leader, recently released from prison where he spent six years, said his move was motivated by "the deterioration of the situation in Algeria and mass massacres which targeted Algerian people".

Mr Madani's letter was not mentioned by Algerian state-run media, including the APS news agency.

The UN chief on Saturday told a news conference that words of condemnation would not be enough. "It will be necessary to go beyond that, quietly and discreetly," he said. "I hope we will find ways and means of encouraging the parties to cease violence."

"The killing has gone on far too long," said Mr Annan, who was attending the Venice film festival where a UN film, *Festivals to a War*, was on show.

Pope John Paul yesterday also condemned the massacres. My thoughts turn to the martyred Algeria, where news of unheard-of violence, which necessarily hit so many innocent people, continues to reach us," he told pilgrims from his summer residence south of Rome in a regular Sunday address.

"May God touch the heart of those involved in these massacres, in order that there may be an end to such an unjustifiable spiral of violence and the country may find again the face it so desires," he added.



Blazing a trail: A 50ft-effigy dominating the skyline at the annual Burning Man festival in the Nevada desert. The festival for "free-spirited people" is described as "Mad Max meets Woodstock" and drew 20,000 people over the weekend

Photograph: David Ake/Reuters

Egypt jails Israeli 'spy' for 15 years



Patrick Cockburn
Jerusalem

An Egyptian state security court in Cairo yesterday sentenced an Israeli Arab to 15 years' hard labour for spying in Egypt on behalf of Israeli intelligence. The case brings Israeli-Egyptian relations to their lowest level since the peace treaty between the two countries was signed in 1979.

Azam Azam, an Israeli-Arab belonging to the Druze sect, was convicted of working as a spy when he was employed in a textile plant in Egypt. He was accused of planning to send back information written on invisible

ink on items of lingerie made in the factory.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, protested by telephone to Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, that Mr Azam was innocent and said that the verdict was "an outrage". Mr Azam's lawyer said that his client was the victim of poor political relations between Egypt and Israel.

Three accomplices of Mr Azam, Emad Abdel Hamid Ismail, an Egyptian, and two Israeli Arab women — Zahra Youseff Greiss and Mona Ahmed Shawhala — were given life sentences in absentia on the same charges. The trial became the focus

of Egyptian hostility to Israel, which has intensified since Mr Netanyahu became prime minister last year.

The espionage charges mainly involved economic spying, according to the charges brought against Mr Azam, who was employed by one of the few Israeli-Egyptian joint ventures in Cairo.

Mr Azam's brothers, who were in court, earlier had said that their brother would be acquitted. Israel has repeatedly denied the charges were true and the case has been portrayed by the Israeli government and media as an officially inspired fabrication. However, there is no doubt that Egyptian popular am-

ity to Israel has grown. Mr Azam's Egyptian attorney, Farid el-Desh, was denounced as a traitor by other Egyptian lawyers. The Egyptian press portrayed Mr Azam and Mr Ismail as spies long before the verdict was announced.

In Israel the government reacted strongly, David Bar-Ilan, the Prime Minister's aide, said:

"The Prime Minister said in the cabinet meeting that this is an outrage. Azam Azam is innocent. He does not deserve to spend one day in jail."

Mr Netanyahu has been lobbying Mubarak to release Azam since he was arrested in November 1996.

Angolan rebels step into line

Angola's former rebel movement said on Sunday it would fulfil United Nations Security Council demands to avert new sanctions, but officials close to the peace process said they doubted Unita's will to comply. Last week the Security Council announced a package of sanctions due to come into effect on 30 September unless Secretary-General Kofi Annan confirms that Unita has taken "concrete and irreversible steps" to fulfil its obligations. Reuters - Luanda

Israel flights to Jordan

Israel said it hoped to reach a permanent accord soon to allow it to divert international flights to its congested Elat resort to the Red Sea airport at Aqaba, Jordan. The project to divert flights from Elat's congested airport to Aqaba, just six miles away, was the first major Israeli-Jordanian venture announced to cement a peace treaty signed in 1994. Reuters - Aqaba

Poles in military pact

The defence ministers of Poland, Germany and Denmark announced plans to establish a joint military corps, which would begin operation after Poland's entry into Nato. The unit is planned to start operation in April 1999 and will be made up of three divisions of 8,000 to 10,000 troops each. Its headquarters will be probably in Szczecin, Poland, on the Baltic coast near the Polish-German border. AP - Warsaw

Montserrat hopes for aid

Montserrat's volcano continued rumbling, spewing ash and rocks as the island eagerly awaited the arrival of a top British official and the possibility of more aid. Government officials and the general public are looking forward to the arrival today of Development Minister George Foulkes (right), hoping he will announce a new aid package for people who want to stay on the British colony. AP - Salem



Biker gangs open fire

Police warned residents to stay off the streets after a shootout between rival motorcycle gangs in the Queensland central coast city of Mackay. Six people, all believed to be gang members, were in hospital with gunshot wounds after the gunfight between members of the Odins Warriors and the Outlaws motorcycle gangs, a police spokesman said.

Cambodia's king warns of threat to poll

Siem Reap, Cambodia (AP) — King Norodom Sihanouk, calling his country "an island of war", predicted yesterday that free elections could not be held without peace between his son and the coalition partner who deposed the Prince in a coup.

The frail monarch returned to Cambodia on Friday after six months of medical treatment in China, and offered to mediate a peace deal to end two months

of factional warfare. "If they allow me to do something, I would also like to participate in the informal talks," the King said, referring to possible negotiations between the Second Prime Minister, Hun Sen, and royalists led by the King's son, the former First Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Hun Sen has promised elections for next May, the fifth anniversary of a United Nations

organised vote that brought him to power in a tense coalition with Prince Ranariddh which was shattered by the coup in early July.

King Sihanouk, 74, told reporters in Siem Reap that he was willing to take up Hun Sen's offer to be a supreme adviser during the elections, but expressed doubts that the polls would be free and fair.

"If we continue like we have been doing in the last two

months, we cannot have a democratic, free and fair election," he said. "We will have a guided, arranged election."

Prince Ranariddh won the election in 1993, but Hun Sen forced his way into a coalition by threatening renewed civil war. Few expect Hun Sen to lose next time or to surrender power if he does.

Prince Ranariddh's military supporters were still fighting yes-

terday along the northern border with Thailand, where they have held out against Hun Sen's larger forces for more than two weeks at the village of O Smach.

The King predicted that the village will soon fall and that subsequent resistance will come primarily from the Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

A Khmer Rouge faction is fighting alongside Prince Ranariddh's men.

Principles of a traditional smoke. We can't talk of a timescale," says Lucio Guarato, the European Commission's representative in Rabat. "How do you persuade people to break the traditions of generations? You have to offer them something guaranteeing long-term prosperity. It's horribly complicated."

Crucial to the success of the Northern Development Agency is the support of the people in the Rif, Mr Amrani says. "Our plan is to participate in work with local people and NGOs [Non-governmental organisations], women's groups and youth groups. The agency has good support from friendly countries and institutions like the EU."

"Repression is necessary, but we can't keep it up indefinitely. Our challenge is to find a long-term solution. We must offer an alternative activity for millions who live from kif production, and for that we need support from friendly countries and institutions like the EU."

The laid-back days of the Sixties and Seventies, when Europe's hipsters were seized last year, and 342 foreigners — including 40 Britons — are serving time in Moroccan jails for drug offences.

The authorities insist they aim to eradicate production of kif, the cannabis plant, altogether, though they dare not infringe the Berber ancient tradition of cultivation for fear of revolt. They seek to promote alternative activities such as olive oil production and eco-tourism, with the help of EU funds.

Cannabis cultivation derives from poverty, and the problem must be solved in the framework of the overall development of the northern

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features

Not an ounce out of control

The Monday Interview



Deborah Ross
talks to

ROSEMARY CONLEY

I meet Rosemary Conley – author of the perpetually best-selling *Hip and Thigh Diet* – at a hotel in central London. She is already up in the suite when I arrive, all big lacquered hair and gleaming lipstick and super-tight little body perched primly and thinly on the edge of the sofa.

Of course, I do not work my way towards her in any way which would give her a glimpse of my backside. What fool would? Instead, I kind of edge around the wall, while firmly keeping my back to it. Are you feeling well, Rosemary asks. I am quite well, thank you, I reply. It's just that I don't want you to view my bottom, you being an expert on bottoms and doubtless knowing a nasty one when you see it. "But," she cries, "you have nothing to worry about! You're so slim!" Naturally, I'd intended to get quite tough on Rosemary. Naturally, I had planned to come over very feminist and scold her for pushing the slimming ideal, something imposed on women by oppressive males in the interest of maintaining the patriarchy and being able to go to the football on Saturday afternoons and not mow the lawn. But blow all that rubbish now. I'm slim! I'm slim! I've got nothing to worry about! Rosemary Conley herself says so! And she, of course, should know.

Rosemary's hip and thigh book has dominated the best-seller lists for more than nine years. All her subsequent books – *Rosemary Conley's Complete Hip and Thigh Diet*, *The Hip and Thigh Diet Cookbook*, *The Inch Loss Plan*, *The Metabolism Booster Diet* and so on and so forth – have proved instant best-sellers, as have the videos. In fact, she is here today to launch her latest video, *Rosemary Conley's Ultimate Fat Burner* (£12.99). This features Rosemary doing a lot of terribly frightening, bouncy, stretchy things in a multi-coloured, floral leotard. It is wholly draining and exhausting, and would doubtless have been even more so had I bothered to get out my chain. As it was, I felt quite faint after 10 minutes.

As far as I can work out, Rosemary releases a book or a video – or both – at least once a year. As such, I wonder if she'll shortly run out of body parts to focus on, and be reduced to doing *The Total Eyelid Diet*, say. She doesn't think so. "Certainly, with the fitness videos, you can't run out of ideas because there is always new music, new routines, new formats. But, yes, I do sometimes get diet-fatigued."

In fact, now I think about it, *The Total Eyelid Diet* is not such a bad idea. It could involve winking a lot, picking up strapping men on the Tube and having so much sex that you forget to eat. What do you think, Rosemary? "It's um, quite an interesting thought," she says. You're not going to nick it, are you, I ask worriedly. "No. Certainly not," she retorts indignantly. "I've never stolen anything in my life." Of course, Rosemary Conley has a brilliant sense of humour and loves my excellent jokes. She just seems to be having a hard time showing it today.

Anyway, she is immensely rich. Aside from the books and videos, and her weekly spots on *This Morning* and the bi-monthly *Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness Magazine*, there are also the Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness Clubs. Launched in 1993, this is now the fastest-growing franchise in the UK, with more than 2,300 classes held weekly for 70,000 members. Rosemary



Rosemary Conley, weight-loss guru and committed Christian: "I appreciate what I've got, but money means absolutely nothing to me." Photograph: Adrian Dennis

drives a Bentley (number plate ROS 1E). She owns a big house in Leicestershire with horses and acres of land. Her fingers sparkle with diamonds. How much is she worth exactly?

"I wouldn't know," she says. Why on earth not? "I'm just not interested." Oh, come off it. "I'm not. Money means absolutely nothing to me." But the Bent-

ley? The house? The diamonds? "I am very happy about having these things. I appreciate what I've got. I'm not saying I don't. But what I am saying is that I'm not one of those people who wants to count up exactly how much I'm worth."

Rosemary Conley is a committed Christian. Christians, while allowed to diet a lot and have nice houses and motors and horses and sing like Cliff Richard, should not be overly interested in money for money's sake, so Rosemary isn't. Rosemary is not, I suspect, a woman who leaves much to chance. Her mind can't ever surprise her, because she's given it to God. Her body can't ever surprise her because

she watches it too closely. She always has to be in control, in other words.

No, the photographer cannot take pictures as we talk, because he might get a profile, and she won't allow profiles because she hates her nose. "Too big. Too hooked." When did she last let herself go? "On the eating front?" she asks. On any front, I say. "Well, at one point, I started going back to eating butter on bread rolls in restaurants." You wild and reckless thing you. "Yes, it's so easy to slip back. But I stopped doing it one Lent a couple of years ago and I haven't done it since."

Last night, she went out for dinner and yes, had a pudding – "a soulful thing". But that's OK, because "I didn't have cream with it" and she made up for it this morning by having half her usual breakfast. Which is? "One and a half ounces of All-Bran instead of three ounces." Miss Conley is 50. It seems to me that there is something quite sad about a 50-year-old woman measuring out All-Bran in a hotel room after a night out.

She didn't know who I was. My step-mother, Mabel, looks after him for four weeks out of six. For the other two weeks, he's in respite care. Last time I went to visit him in respite, there was a lady there who was 57 – 57! Just seven years older than me. And she was completely out of it!"

Her childhood was, for the most part, quite straightforward. She was born in Leicestershire to Celia, a housewife with a mercantile streak – she invented a cylon cap to go over hair rollers which she sold through Harrods – and Oswald, a hosiery wholesaler. She was always very close to her father.

He was an ever so kind, hard-working man, she says. "When I was eight, his business went bust because other people went bust on him. He went into voluntary liquidation but then took out a bank loan to pay off all his creditors, which he did, even though it took him 10 years. He was incredibly decent."

"My mother died 18 years ago but my father is still alive. Sadly, he is in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's now. It started six or seven years ago when he started pouring milk into the sugar bowl. I spoke to him every day until six months ago when there stopped being any point,

but I don't doubt that it makes her happy. Best leave nothing to chance."

People who are obsessed with their own weight tend to be so, most psychologists would agree, because it gives them something to control in a world which they feel is mostly beyond their control. Is this true of Rosemary? Perhaps.

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drives a Bentley (number plate ROS 1E). She owns a big house in Leicestershire with horses and acres of land. Her fingers sparkle with diamonds. How much is she worth exactly?

"I wouldn't know," she says. Why on earth not? "I'm just not interested." Oh, come off it. "I'm not. Money means absolutely nothing to me." But the Bent-

ley? The house? The diamonds? "I am very happy about having these things. I appreciate what I've got. I'm not saying I don't. But what I am saying is that I'm not one of those people who wants to count up exactly how much I'm worth."

Last night, she went out for dinner and yes, had a pudding – "a soulful thing". But that's OK, because "I didn't have cream with it" and she made up for it this morning by having half her usual breakfast. Which is? "One and a half ounces of All-Bran instead of three ounces." Miss Conley is 50. It seems to me that there is something quite sad about a 50-year-old woman measuring out All-Bran in a hotel room after a night out.

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For some years, she fought a losing battle against fat, taking off a stone then putting it on again through bingeing on five litres of ice cream at a sitting, or lumps of cheese spread with butter. Eventually, she took herself off to Weight Watchers, which helped bring her weight down – but didn't do much for her hips and thighs – and led to her starting her own diet class in her kitchen. Sogg – slimming and good grooming – eventually grew into a chain which she sold to IPC for £50,000. The money allowed her to part amicably from Phil. "We'd just drifted apart."

Not long afterwards, she became unwell, suffering from gallstones. She ended up in hospital – an event which, I reckon, is the pivotal moment in the Rosemary Conley life story. Here she was, ill, with no husband, no business, and those obstinate hips and thighs. Yes, she did feel very out of control and she would, she thinks, have had a nervous breakdown if two things hadn't happened. Firstly, she chanced upon a Christian book, *The Power of Living*, which converted her and made God appear before her in a dream, saying "I shall provide". Then, her doctors told her if she wanted to avoid surgery she would have to go on a low-fat diet and take more exercise. She lost a lot of weight and miraculously, a lot of it went from her thighs and hips. She then wrote about her experiences – "to help other women".

Of course, there had been diet books:

When did she last let herself go? I started eating butter on bread rolls. It's so easy to slip back'

before. And there have been unprinted since. And prescribing a low-fat diet coupled with exercise isn't exactly revolutionary. So what made and continues to make *The Hip and Thigh Diet* so enduringly popular? First off, I reckon, it's the name. Mention hips and thighs and you quite literally go right to the bottom of the average British woman's neurosis. Then there's the fact Rosemary is who she is. She isn't a doctor. She isn't a Jane Fonda. "I'm just an ordinary woman offering sensible advice that works," she says. "People can identify with me."

Yes, she says, she is sure that God approves of a life dedicated to spreading the low-fat word. "We should stop all this nonsense about not being vain and that we shouldn't be dieting," she says. "God didn't make us fat! We made ourselves fat!"

Still, there must be a better way of serving God, surely? "I also give talks about my Christian faith," she says. "I give £2 a year."

She now lives with her second husband, Mike Rimmington, a one-time TV engineer who is now her manager. Both are wholly dedicated to God and the Rosemary Conley business, which doesn't appear to leave time for much else, not that Rosemary seems to need any hobbies or anything. Certainly, she doesn't seem to need any emotional outlets. No, she doesn't read. Or listen to music. Or go to the cinema. She only occasionally watches telly. (She likes *The Bill* and *Pie in the Sky*, "although that chap could do with giving on a diet".)

So what does she do when she's not praying or bemoaning about on videos? "I do like flower arranging. My favourite flower? The lily, although you have to watch out for the pollen because it stains." Once a year, she goes on holiday to Austria with slimmers from her clubs. I wonder what going to Austria with a group of slimmers is like. Do you all stand outside the cake shops, looking at the strudels and dribbling all over whatever strudel you happen to find yourself huddled on? "Oh no. We have a super-lovely time. We stay at the same hotel where they make us low-fat food."

The Total Eyelid Diet, published by Dorset Books, will be available from next week, price £9.99. Sleep, I know, but if you're only going to have one Good Idea in your life, you might as well make it pay.

Reading about Jeep Disease makes me feel better

When are you supposed to start flossing your children's teeth? asked the fresh-faced young American mother of an 18-month-old, sitting opposite me in the doctor's surgery. Hell's teeth, I have enough problems getting my hands into my own mouth, which is why my flossing resolutions never last beyond three days after my visit to the dental hygienist. I suppose she thought that a mother of four would have all this kind of thing sussed by now and that we looked like a shining model of family health and hygiene. If only she knew. My four-year-old and eight-year-old both have fillings (you tend to give up the puffed-rice-cakes-only regime after the first baby) and all this week we have been bonding over the nit comb. Instead of feeling pleased that the male side of the family has escaped the scourge of head lice,

I have been worrying that I don't have enough head-to-head contact with them. And we were sitting there in the doctor's surgery because I wanted to have one of the boy's molars checked out, just in case the three molars of Factor 30 we got through oo holiday hadn't been enough to stop a few rays of carcinogenic sunshine getting through. As usual, I had to contend myself with the doctor's reassurance that my son's only affliction was a paranoid mother. This probably wasn't the time to mention that my medical dictionary also says that head lice can transmit the organisms of typhus fever ...

Return home to look up "hypochondria" in my dictionary of symptoms but instead my attention is caught by "Jeep Disease", which can be identified by a "discharging spot, perhaps with a tuft of hairs sticking



Dinah Hall

out, releasing a blood-stained, foul-smelling material, in the cleft above the back passage" and is so named because by sitting on a hard and vibrating seat, as in a jeep. It isn't often that my medical books cheer me up, but this casts a whole new light on people who think it's cool to drive round London in farm Land Rovers, doesn't it. My suburban Renault Espace has never seemed so attractive.

But back to hypochondria. I had always attributed my own case to childhood exposure to *Emergency – Ward 10* and *Doctor Kildare* but I now find that it may

be a defence mechanism in work failure or marital failure or a self-punishment for imaginary guilt". It doesn't say anything about heredity but I fear my 10-year-old son has it worse than me. I don't think I can be blamed for this – I have always tried very hard to conceal my hysteria if the children cannot pinpoint the exact origin of a bruise (bruising comes under leukaemia).

realism in children's literature. At the age of eight when most boys have a natural interest in comparisons (or so it says in one of my child development manuals, she lived next to the medical dictionaries), instead of asking whether you would prefer to be a pop singer or a footballer, my son was positive towards like "would you rather have muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy or dyslexia?" – all of which were starring aliments in novels he was reading at the time. Now, despite being a strapping, healthy boy, he is convinced that I am concealing some mysterious illness from him. "Are you sure this holiday/meal out/packet of sweets isn't just a treat for me?" he demands suspiciously, whenever we even border on being nice to him. In retrospect, I should have swallowed my intellectual pride and let him loose on Enid Blyton.

Breath of our nanny (yippee! I can throw away Tesco carrier bags and left-over food without feeling guilty – inside her young and glamorous facade, Kelly has the spirit of someone who has lived through two world wars) I have sent the three oldest children off to stay with my parents in the country for a holiday free of medical paranoia. And what is the first thing my mother does with them? Takes them to the veterinary surgery where, she says, the nice vet man showed them how to "squeeze dogs' bottoms". Yes really. Apparently, explains my oldest son over the phone, dogs have these muscle glands in their rectums (hence the traditional form of canine greeting), which sometimes get blocked. The children may have missed out on summer school, but it's good to know they've picked up some really useful life-skills this summer.

business & city

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL
OF THE YEAR

Asian markets braced for new slump

Matthew Chance
Bangkok
Magnus Grimond

South-east Asian markets battered by last week's financial typhoon will reopen today facing a period of extreme nervousness, exacerbated by criticisms made at the weekend by Alan Greenspan, the US Federal Reserve chairman, over the handling of the crisis.

Echoing many western investors, Mr Greenspan said current levels of "transparency" were too low and called for international financial institutions to intervene to

force the issue.

Addressing a meeting of central bankers in Wyoming, he said the lessons of both the Thai crisis and the earlier difficulties faced by Mexico showed that governments must provide reliable and up-to-date economic and financial information.

Mr Greenspan's is the most high profile of a number of criticisms by western financial observers of the handling of the economic problems of the region.

At the same weekend meeting, Stanley Fisher, deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said Thailand could have

averted the crisis had it heeded IMF advice earlier: "We were very frank with the Thais. It didn't prevent the crisis. You cannot force a government to take action."

Last week's panic selling of stocks wiped billions of dollars off houses in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and beleaguered Thailand. Even the normally resilient markets in Hong Kong and Tokyo received a hammering as jittery investors pulled out their funds in what may be a large-scale reassessment of Asian economies.

"We are certainly witnessing the effect of a crisis in confidence amongst investors," said

Brett Williams, a senior analyst with Krungthai Thanakar Securities in Bangkok. "There may be a global rethink under way in the markets, and to some extent the falls we saw last week in the South-east Asian region could reflect a real concern that Asia may not be good a deal as it once was."

The catalyst in this re-think has undoubtedly been the devastating financial crisis in Thailand. Low exports, a badly overstretched banking sector and a slumped property market which has left lenders saddled with more than \$70bn in private sector debts, has plunged this once booming Tiger economy

into its first recession for more than two decades.

Despite innumerable plans by the country's leadership to halt the decline, none was successful and a humiliating de facto devaluation of the Thai currency, the baht, was followed last month by the acceptance of a stringent \$16bn economic bail-out package agreed with the IMF.

But the package has done little to restore the collapse in investor confidence that preceded it, and financiers are concerned that the problems which led to Thailand's economic malaise may also have the potential to emerge in neighbouring countries.

"At the moment there are only anecdotal signs that things could be wrong," said Mr Williams, "but more scrutiny of these countries' economies may reveal problems not unlike Thailand's just waiting to happen. The market will judge."

This contagion effect, the knock-on of Thailand's woes, may account for much of last week's turmoil on the South-east Asian markets.

Sharing a "risk-group" with Thailand, the other nations and economies of the region may be suffering as a direct result of their neighbour's poor image and failing financial structures.

Analysts separate out Japan and Hong Kong, where different influences - Wall Street in the case of the former and domestic issues in the case of Japan - are seen as more important.

But the rest of Asia has, more or less, moved as a financial entity, a fact repeatedly derided by several governments, most notably that of Malaysia.

The country's outspoken Labour Editor

Pay rises starting to move ahead of inflation

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

Rising inflation is fueling an acceleration in pay rises, with key companies agreeing increases considerably higher than the growth in the Retail Price Index, according to research published today.

At a time when the headline monthly inflation rate stood at 2.9 per cent, engineering and clerical workers at BT recently won a 4.3 per cent increase, staff at Bank of Scotland an average 4.7 per cent and Rover Group employees 4.5 per cent. Staff at Marks & Spencer are to receive a rise of 3.5 per cent from July, which will be supplemented by an additional 1 per cent in October to be distributed among staff on merit.

The deals are bound to have an impact on other influential groups of workers, including those at Ford, whose leaders are due to submit a claim for a substantial pay increase this week. Research group Incomes Data Services believes the negotiations at Ford, which begin in earnest in November, may be especially fraught.

With the latest RPI figure now standing at 3.3 per cent and forecast to go higher, the most powerful employees will be seeking increases of 5 per cent or more - aspirations which will cause considerable concern among ministers.

Well over half of settlements in recent weeks have given rises in the 3 to 4 per cent range, according to IDS. Some 140,000 police officers, for instance, will today receive a pay rise of 3.5 per cent as dictated by their automatic pay formula. For those with pay review dates from 1 July onwards, just over a quarter of settlements have raised pay rates by 4 per cent or more.

In its latest IDS Report, the research group says the signs of a pick-up in wage rates may be due to a combination of factors, including higher inflation, falling unemployment, the four successive rises in mortgage rates since May and the strict fiscal measures taken in the Budget.

The study points out that the drop in unemployment has produced extremely tight labour markets in some areas, leading to acute skill shortages, especially in construction and information technology.

* *IDS Report 744, published by Incomes Data Services, 77 Bastwick Street, London EC1V 3TT.*

No sign of a quick recovery for Hong Kong

Stephen Vines
Hong Kong

Hong Kong's blue chip Hang Seng Index has crashed below all the support levels which brokers confidently predicted would hold the market, having fallen almost 1,400 points or 9 per cent in the last two trading days.

Although reasons for further pessimism abound, some big Hoog Kong investors, such as Mark Mobius, the high-profile president of Templeton Emerging Markets Fund, believe that Hoog Kong offers good value at the current lower prices.

Nevertheless most brokers are not prepared to stick their necks out and predict any sudden turnaround. Hoog Kong shares may well be trading at giveaway prices, but there is no escaping the market's location in a region which is being deserted in droves by big institutional players.

Moreover, the very liquidity of the Hong Kong market and the fact that it has not lost all the gains made during the past year, make Hong Kong shares the target for sales by fund managers under pressure to raise cash. With investors queuing up to sell their South-east Asian funds, the managers need money to pay for the redemptions.

While this selling pressure lasts, Hong Kong's blue chip index, predominantly traded by institutions, will have a hard time making a recovery. However the rest of the market, which is dominated by local investors, is moving in a different direction.



The eye of the storm: A dealer on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange reacts to market movements as stocks continue to dive

Photograph: Reuter

Richard Lloyd Parry
Tokyo

For a nation of exporters like Japan, fluctuations in the value of trading currencies are always going to be a cause of anxiety, but concerns in Tokyo about the collapse of the Thai baht and its neighbouring South-east Asian currencies have another and deeper dimension.

Apart from the effects that the devaluations are already having on Japanese manufacturers and banks, the crisis is raising important and difficult questions about Japan's role in healing the damage, and its future as a financial leader in a

Thailand crisis poses big questions over Japan's role

suspicious and historically hostile region.

Japan is uniquely exposed in South-east Asia, and particularly in Thailand, where the crisis began with the baht's forced devaluation on 2 July.

Roughly half of Thailand's \$80bn of foreign borrowing comes from Japanese banks, who are only just recovering from the collapse of their own property bubble five years ago.

Now, with the baht worth 30 per cent less than two months ago, the repayment of the Thai debts is also called into question.

But Japanese companies have also led the way in setting up offshore manufacturing plants in South-east Asia, bringing valuable skills and technology and benefiting from production costs and young and increasingly affluent consumer markets. In Thailand, for

instance, half of all direct investment is Japanese. But the crunch on consumer spending forced by the baht's devaluation is already affecting sales, especially of Japanese cars.

Both Toyota and Honda have opened new factories in Thailand in the last 18 months. Last week, the president of Toyota admitted that the baht's devaluation could force sales down by nearly one third. Nissan has

closed one of its factories for August, and Japan's biggest life insurer, Nippon Life, quickly sold off half its holdings in Thai securities after the devaluation.

Japan was the largest national donor to the \$16bn rescue package organised for Thailand by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but its \$4bn dollar contribution was actually less than expected.

Despite its position as the region's pre-eminent economic power, Japan has failed to address the crisis with the energy shown by the United States in tackling the collapse of the Mexican peso some three years ago.

IN BRIEF

Strong pound unsustainable, says Governor

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday the current strength of the pound was unsustainable, but there was little the monetary authorities could do about it. He told a conference of central bankers and economists in Wyoming that the Bank had to focus on maintaining long-term price stability and growing the economy until the problem of the strength of sterling resolved itself. There was "no perfect solution", Mr George said, so they would have to hold on until the situation resolved itself. "We've got an exchange rate that is clearly stronger than we think we could be sustained in the longer term," he said. His remarks come after the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, on Saturday hailed the "optimistic noises" from the Bank on inflation and interest rates.

SBC rocked by fresh scandal

SBC Bank Corporation has been rocked by a new scandal after it emerged that a former employee had committed suicide after being sacked from the bank's foreign exchange department in connection with the embezzlement of up to \$10m (£1.1m). A spokesman said over the weekend: "Five people in Geneva have been fired with immediate effect after we discovered irregularities in our foreign exchange business. Some tried to put money into their own pockets, some that belonged to the bank." He confirmed that one had later died, reportedly found with a pistol at his side. The new revelations come after SBC, owner of London's SHC Warburg investment bank, was last week fined a record £300,000 for disciplinary breaches and Credit Suisse admitted it had sacked a rogue trader who lost around \$9m (£5.5m) on the options market.

Williams may ditch home improvement

Williams Holdings is reported to be considering disposing of its home improvement business, which includes the Polyflair and Polycell brands, in order to focus on its core security and fire protection interests. The company was not available for comment yesterday. Analysts said the sale could fetch over £900m, with Imperial Chemicals Industries among the favourite buyers.

Hurn tipped as front-runner for GEC job

The chairman of Smiths Industries, Sir Roger Hurn, has been tipped as the front-runner to replace Lord Prior as the head of GEC, the defence group. Lord Prior retires next year, and an announcement about his successor is not expected until the end of this year. A spokesman for Smiths Industries refused to comment last night, but it is thought that a decision on the post is some way off.

Cable & Wireless to use BSkyB

Cable & Wireless Communications, the UK's largest cable company, is understood to have signed a deal with BSkyB to use the satellite broadcaster as its pay-per-view supplier instead of developing its own service. Neither CWC nor Sky would comment, but an announcement is expected within weeks. The news coincides with attempts by other cable operators to break Sky's dominance in the market.

Another £25bn in windfall gains could be on the way

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

The next five years could bring another £25bn of windfalls for consumers as more building societies and other mutual organisations follow the lead of the Halifax and convert to companies listed on the stock market. A leading City of London investment bank predicts that millions of people will share in this new bonanza, having already picked up a predicted £35bn of free shares in converting institutions by the end of this year.

As well as the Halifax, several well-known building societies including the Woolwich have joined the stock market this year, along with Norwich Union, the life insurance company. About a quarter of the free shares members of former building societies have received so far in 1997 have been sold immediately.

The rush to the stock market has delighted carpetbaggers and fuelled the present consumer boom. But the give-up, expected to add more

Remaining mutual building societies

Estimated payout, 1997	
Nationwide	£7.0
Bradford & Bingley	£3.0
Britannia	£1.1
Yorkshire	£0.9
Portsmouth	£0.5
Coventry	£0.4
Santander	£0.3
Stamford	£0.3
Tower	£0.4
Royal London Mutual	£0.0
Scottish Life	£0.0

Source: HSBC Greenwich

£bn

borrower, although some of the

payout would take the form of payments into policyholders' funds rather than an immediate sharehandout.

In addition, other mutual organisations are candidates for shedding their collective ownership and parcelling out their assets to members, the bank suggests.

The most obvious example is the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Although a recent takeover bid failed ignominiously, others might think it worth trying to overturn the group's co-operative status.

Other examples include the London tdf firm Dial-a-Cab, whose 1,600 members would gain £1,000 each from a stock market flotation which valued the company at £10m. They paid just £50 each to join.

Both of the two main rating organisations, the AA and RAC, are also collectively owned by their members.

Even the Church is a mutual organisation, rich in assets, the report points out, although it does not suggest any candidates to mount a takeover bid.

Workers that is not being replaced due to the fragmented nature of the labour market.

The Peacock Committee, which was established in 1985, called for a restructuring of the television industry to promote competition, and set in train many of the changes which culminated in the 1990 Broadcasting Act. The Act instigated a competitive auction of the ITV franchises and forced broadcasters to purchase at least 25 per cent of programming from independent producers.

The port transport industry faced a similar upheaval. The nationalised British Transport Docks Board was transferred to the private sector in 1982, and reinvented as Associated British Ports. The National Dock Labour Scheme was abolished in 1989 in order to open up competition between different ports.

In both industries, the report claims, the changes led to a surge in temporary contract labour, which has "not lifted productivity or the quality of work performed".

The IPPR based its research on a detailed postal questionnaire and interviews with 100 industry participants.

OTHER INDICATORS

Close	Week's Chg	Year Ago	Index	Yr Chg	Yr Ago	Best Pts
Oil Brent \$	18.29	+1.56	1.5574	0.6166	-0.64	0.542
Oil WTI	15.20	+0.98	1.5576	0.6171	-0.0034	0.6420
DM (London)	2.0155	+0.24	2.3052	1.8002	-1.71	1.4802
DM (New York)	19.0386	+18.52	19.8177	12.2909	+7.890	10.4000
Euro	10.22	+0.05	9.50	10.58	+0.3	9.51

STOCK MARKETS

Indices	Close	Wk Chg	Chg %	1996/97 High	1996/

